

THE BOMBAY COURIER.

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VOL. XLII.]

TUESDAY, 3 SEPTEMBER, 1833.

[NO. 2270.]

THE Bombay Steam Committee, having with Capt. WILSON'S consent, made a reprint of his Pamphlet on "Steam Communication to Suez" to which is now added, observations on "Steaming during the S. W. MONSOON," copies may be had at the Courier Office, price one rupee; the proceeds, after paying printing expenses, to go to the Steam fund.

THE Monthly Meeting of the Managing Committee of the BYCULLA CLUB, will be held at Mr. BURNS' Office, in the Fort, on Saturday next, the 9th inst., at 4 o'clock P. M. when a full attendance is particularly requested.

Byculla Club, 2d Sept. 1833.

JUST Published, — No. 12 of the QUARTERLY ARMY LIST. Price Rupees 3.

FOR Sale—Number XX of the ORIENTAL SPORTING MAGAZINE.

CONTENTS.—No. 1 The Married Hunter, —2 Reminiscences of the Fancy, —3 Song, "Fill the Goblet to the brim," —4 The Florikan, —5 A Bison Hunt, —6 Another Wild Elephant on the Western Coast of India, —7 Captain Mundy, —8 Animals by their proper names, —9 Splendid Exploit of a Native Infantry Regiment, —10 Lines for the O. S. M., —11 Native Pharmacopoeia, —12 Hunters of Yore, —13 A Song, —14 Hunting in the Southern Mahratta Country, —15 An Epistle from the Northern Concan, —16 Steeple Chases, —17 Performances of Chester, —18 The Hunting and Shooting Diversions of the Boon delas, —19 A Sagacious Horse, —20 The Union Coach, —Races to Come, and the Racing Calendar.

FOR SALE at the Courier Office—A few remaining copies of the BOMBAY CALENDAR and ALMANAC, printed on English Royal Paper for the present Year, containing Rules, Regulations, and other matter of local interest not previously published. —Price 6 Rupees per copy.

FOR SALE at the Courier Office—A CODE OF SIGNALS, with a list of Vessels and their corresponding numbers in H. M. Service, and the Commercial Navy of Great Britain, together with those belonging to the Port of Bombay. Price, one Rupee.

FOR SALE at the Courier Office, —The Oriental Sporting Magazine, from No. 7 to 19, each No. 3 0 0
Blank Powers of Attorney, ... 0 2 0
Do. Interest Bonds, ... 0 2 0
Do. Policies, ... 1 0 0
Do. Bills of Lading, per set, ... 0 2 0
Do. Respondentia Bonds, ... 0 2 0
Do. Bills of Exchange, per set, ... 0 2 0
Plans of the Island, ... 1 0 0
Traveller's Itinerary, ... 5 0 0
Insolvent Debtor's Act, ... 3 0 0

LETTER-PRESS PRINTING, neatly executed upon moderate terms.

FOR PASSAGE TO LONDON, —The first class teak Ship GILMORE, of 550 Tons, H. H. Lindsay, Commander, has poop and lower deck accommodations, fitted up in a superior style, and carries an experienced surgeon.

This Ship is expected to arrive in all this month, and will be despatched about 1st November. Plans of the Cabins may be seen on application to DUNCAN GIBB & Co. Duddy's Buildings, 2nd September, 1833.

FOR FREIGHT OR PASSAGE TO LONDON, —The Teak Built Ship "LONDON," 400 Tons Register, JOHN PICKERING, commander, will have early despatch. Apply at this office of McGRIGOR EDMOND & Co.

Bombay, 3rd September, 1833.

THE 6TH REGIMENT N. I.
TO THE EDITOR OF THE BOMBAY COURIER, Sir,—I have heard various rumours, false as they are malicious, regarding the conduct of this regiment since its arrival at Bhowndy, and among others, that the men of the regiment had murdered the native adjutant, on account of his evidence on the trial of the late Kasse Ram, who was executed at Bombay.

This, and such other reports, which may cause the world to believe, the regiment have behaved otherwise than in an exemplary manner since its arrival here, have not the least foundation in truth.—You Mr. Editor I am sure will be equally willing at all times, as the conductor of a public paper, to give publicity to statements, which are for the purpose of contradicting what is false.

I am, &c.
F. T. FARRELL,
Captain in Charge 6th Regt. N. I.
Bhowndy, 31st August, 1833.

LAUNCH OF THE SULTANA.
On Saturday last was launched from Mazagon Dock-yard a beautiful vessel of 312 tons

built for His Highness the Imam of Muscat. She received her name "Sultana" from Mrs. Roberts, and immediately after clearing the dock, was taken in tow by the "Indus" steamer, and tugged up to Bombay in beautiful style, at the rate of 4 knots. After rounding the south end of the middle ground shoal, the little steamer had a hard struggle to tow against a strong spring ebb tide which ran about 4½ knots; she however effected it with the assistance of a Bunder Boat, and tugged the Sultana up the Harbour to her moorings. This vessel is pierced for 12 guns, measures on the gun deck 100 feet, extreme breadth of beam 27 feet, and has been 125 days under construction. The model is from one of the Honorable Company's Brigs of war with alterations by Messrs. Nowrojee Jemsetjee and Cursetjee Kustomjee, builders.

The appearance of the vessel clearly proves that great improvements have been made in the style of building and finishing at this port; and what is equally desirable (in these times) the builders say, the cost of building will not exceed the Cochin charges for a ship of the same tonnage.

The undermentioned vessels are a further proof of the attention now paid to naval architecture at this Port. The "Two Sisters," 277 tons, for Messrs. Forbes and Co., launched 21st June 1833. The Jemsetjee Jejeebhoy 555 tons, for Ramdass Herachund, launched on the 6th February 1833, both very beautiful vessels.

MILITARY ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES.

Major W. Hunt, Queen's Royals.
Major P. E. Outley, 11th N. I. to Poonah.
Lieut. T. B. Hamilton, Staff, to the Cape of Good Hope.
Lieut. A. Logie, 11th Regt. N. I. to Poonah.
Ensign Minster, 11th Regt. N. I. to Poonah.
Capt. E. M. Willoughby, Staff, to the Cape of Good Hope.

DOMESTIC OCCURRENCES.

On the 31st ult., the Lady of Alexander Bell, Esq. Civil Service, of a daughter.
At Sholapore, on the 4th ult., Lieutenant John Corrie Bowater, of the 2d Grenadier Regt. N. I.

SHIPPING REPORT.

Sept. 2d. —Ship Huddersfield, E. Noaks, Master, from Liverpool, 13th May 1833.
—2d. —Barque Resource, Chas. Clark, Master, from Bussorah, 18th July, Bushire 1st, and Muscat 22d Augt.
Passengers.—Capt. Arthur Cotton, Madras Engineers, Rev. Mr. Groves, Mr. MacKail, and 25 Natives.
August 31st. Brig Two Sisters, James Beattie, Master, to Singapore, and Batavia.

LIST OF SHIPPING IN THE HARBOUR.

MONSIEUR COMPANY'S STEAMER—Hugh Lindsay.
HON'BLE COMPANY'S BRIG—Palinurus, and Euphrates.
HON'BLE COMPANY'S SCHOONER—Shannon.
FREE TRADERS.—Charles Kerr, Lady Feversham, Spence, Surrey, General Hewitt, John Taylor, Kent, New Grove, Calcutta, Huddersfield and London, Courtney Stairs, Futay Eslam, Maria, Discovery, Lord Castlereagh, Cyrene, Ann Sumaney, and Resource.
PORTUGUESE.—Consoliel, and Amelia.
FRENCH.—Buillon.
AMERICAN BRIG.—Rupe.

THE COURIER.

TUESDAY, 3 SEPTEMBER, 1833.

We are happy to find that 50 men of the Poonah auxiliary horse have arrived at the presidency in aid of the police, and are to be employed in patrolling the roads at night.

The Resource from Bushire the 8th. of August arrived yesterday, but has brought no European news. The following is an extract of a letter received by her from Bushire.

"Prince Timor Mirza left Bushire on the 29th June, leaving Mirza Ali Khan and Tamasp Kooli Khan as his representatives during his absence.

On the morning of the 1st. August the chief of the powerful tribe of Tangistoon was put to death, while attending the place of public assembly, by his rival the chief of Dashtistoon. Hoosseen Kooli Khan one of his adherents was likewise killed, and another severely wounded. The rest of the followers sought refuge in the British residency, and were subsequently despatched to their own homes. The inveterate feud thus created between two powerful tribes must necessarily tend greatly to increase the alarm and insecurity of the inhabitants of Bushire.

We have just been favored with the following extract of a letter from Lahore, dated the 16th of July, which shows that the want of rain so sensibly felt this season throughout the peninsula of India extends far into the centre of Asia.

"Shah Shujah ool Moolk, the Ex-King of Caubul has arrived at Shikarpore. It is reported that Dost Mahomed Khan, the chief of Caubul has become blind, and that his brother has set out from Candahar to preserve the tranquillity of the country which is threatened."

"A great scarcity of grain exists in Caubul, and prices are enormously high. Hurry Sing Bulwah has requested Runjeet Sing to allow the old grain in his stores to be sent for sale there; and it is supposed the Maharajah will gladly seize the opportunity of disposing of it to advantage."

"A famine also prevails in Cashmere, where the rains have totally failed, and thousands are dying of hunger. The Maharajah has given orders that the grain belonging to Government be distributed among the poor in that province."

No rain has fallen in this country (Lahore) yet, nor in the territory around Attock.

"It is said the British Government have remitted the duties on Cashmere shawls between Calcutta and Lodiannah to the great satisfaction of Runjeet Sing."

The Huddersfield from Liverpool, May 14th, arrived yesterday, with London papers of the 13th. The news these afford is of course anticipated by means of the St. Petersburg Journals from which we extracted on Saturday. A more full and detailed account, however, of the ministerial plan for the abolition of slavery, than we were then able to give, will be found below.

With the exception of this the papers afford very little political intelligence of importance. The news they contain from Turkey is not near so late as that we have received through Persia. We observe that, at the meeting of the Court of Proprietors at the India House, on the 3d. of May, Sir John Malcolm's motion was finally agreed to, offering thanks to the directors for the ability, zeal, and integrity with which they have supported the Company's interests in the late negotiations with Government, and offering also to accept the government of India without the tea monopoly, if vested with full powers, and after a fair adjustment of claims.

With regard to Sir John Malcolm himself we see nothing mentioned in the English papers, except that the attack he had suffered from was by some stated to be influenza, and by others paralysis. He was still considered in a very dangerous state.

We regret extremely to add that the failure of Messrs. Mackintosh and Co. of Calcutta has rendered it necessary for their correspondents in London, Messrs. Rickards Mackintosh and Co. to suspend their payments also. This unfortunate event occurred the day after the news of the failure in Calcutta arrived in London.

CALCUTTA.

We perceive that Mr. Waghorn has received the thanks of the Bombay Committee for the information he has afforded. Whatever be the real value of his services, prospective or retrospective to the cause, his enthusiasm is entitled to some respect; but we must join in a sentiment expressed by the *Hurkaru*, when the news of his arrival reached Calcutta, "that he is cherishing expectations of remuneration from the Steam Fund which have not the slightest chance of being realized." His visit to Egypt and Bombay is quite a speculation of his own, unauthorised and not countenanced by the old Fund Committee, and in no respect does he appear as the accredited agent either of the Board of Control or of any Steam Company or merchant adventurers in England. He takes his chance of employment, and has no doubt gained some knowledge of Steam affairs during the four or five years in which his mind has been bent upon the subject; and without being quite what he professes, better acquainted with Steam Vessels than any other man in India, he might be a fit Agent in Egypt or a good Commander for a Steamer, if there be room for his services in either capacity, without prejudice to superior claims. But let him not look to the old Bengal Fund for further pecuniary compensation for his gratuitous journeys—already too much has been voted away in that manner.—August 14.

CEYLON ANTIQUITIES.

Description of some Ancient ruins and Colossal figures discovered at Topary, near Minery, on the 28th June 1820, by Lieutenant Fagan, of H. M. 2d Ceylon Regiment, and contained in a Journal kept by that Officer during his march with a detachment from Batticaloa to the latter place.

RUINS NEAR TOPARY.

On the morning of the 27th, when near Topary, a number of some pillars standing in the jungle, a short way on the left of the road, attracted my notice.* I hastened to examine them, and on a nearer approach was surprised by the appearance of the ruins of an elegant circular building of red brick; and, at a short distance on the right, another building of massive proportions, and of the same materials, heaps of ruins, pillars, brick abutments and fallen walls, appeared through the jungle in all directions. The circular building was, I think, once a temple open above. I ascended to a platform of about 15 feet wide and five high, by six stone steps. The platform is round, and faced with a wall of brick, and has a coping and cornice of cut stone, most of which is still standing: from this platform six steps more lead to another, about seven feet wide, and faced all round with cut stone in square pannels, divided by small pilasters. Ornaments in relief are cut on the pannels, but now worn away and indistinct: it is edged, like the first, with a cornice of stone, and mouldings. Within this, and rising from a ledging of cut stone four feet high and three broad, stand the walls of the temple, a perfect circle about 20 feet high and 2½ thick, with a handsome cornice of brick encircling the top. The whole

* The following observations occur in a Journal kept by an officer whilst travelling from Bintenne to Minery in October, 1817:

"On approaching the late Topary, about a mile and a half beyond the Mahabar village of Kandooru- welle, I remarked an upright stone slab containing on both sides an inscription apparently in Cingalese characters: its an height above the ground 7 feet, breadth 2 feet 9 inches, thickness 10 inches, and the lines of the inscription 2 inches apart. I could not ascertain the purpose of the writing, although not a single letter was defaced; the headman of Kandooru- welle, however, informed me that the Cingalese themselves were unable to decipher it. A little further on and close to the lake, I passed through some ruins, extending to the left, with which the stone is probably connected."

appears to have been coated with plaster, small parts of which still adhere. I examined closely, but could not discover the smallest appearance of its ever having had a roof. Corresponding exactly with the four cardinal points, are the remains of four doors, to each of which there is an ascent by a flight of steps similar to that already described. The interior circumference measures 57 paces exactly, and in the centre rises a mound of earth and ruins, in the middle of which is a square pit, four feet wide, lined with brick, and nearly filled with loose bricks and jungle. On the band or footing of cut stone that runs round the base of the wall stand a number of stone pillars, without capitals, about 5 feet high and four feet asunder; they appear to have been ranged in order from door to door, and bear marks of having been highly ornamented. The door frames, I suspect, have been taken away; judging, however, by the openings, they were about 4½ or 5 feet wide, but whether arched or square it is impossible to say. On each side of the steps which conduct to the 4 doors of the temple, stands the same female figure that guards the entrance of most of the Kandyan temples, covered nearly to the knees with rubbish: this figure must be upwards of five feet high, and is shaded by a hood of Cobra Capellas, of superior sculptur and elegance of attitude to any I have seen: and on the pedestals on each side of the steps, and on several stones lying around, the same reptile is cut in relief, coiled up in different attitudes, and of fine workmanship: the walls of the temple, although interlaced with the Indian fig tree, are in great preservation: the bricks which compose them are of well burnt red earth, each measuring 12 inches by 7, and 1½ thick, disposed with about ¼th of an inch of chunam between them, and the layers, being quite even, look as if the plaster had just been stripped off.

Twenty yards to the right stands the other brick ruin of an oblong form, about 50 feet long by 30 in breadth, and 35 feet high, the walls brick, and five feet thick throughout. The principal entrance is a square stone frame, not large, situated in the west front, and on one side of it is a massy brick pillar that has been highly ornamented, and on which I conjecture was once a statue: its fellow has fallen down and nearly choked up the door way. Climbing over the rubbish, I entered a vestibule about ten feet square, having a small door on each side, and a brick roof of a conical form: thence passing thro' a high door, I entered the principal apartment, now choked up with rubbish and pieces of brick-work. I think it is full 30 feet high; the roof is an arch of brick about 4 feet thick, but neither of the Gothic or Roman pitch; the best way I can describe it is by supposing an egg shell cut length-ways, when the small end being held up will give the section of this roof; it has nothing of the dome in its form, but is thrown over like a tilt, and the end walls are built up to meet it; about half has fallen in. In each of the side walls of this apartment is an arched window, about 5 feet high and 3 wide, with 3 stone bars running from top to bottom and at the far end, and fronting the place I entered, is a niche cut in the wall, and under it the ruins of an altar; I saw four sitting figures of Budhoo amongst the rubbish, rather under the human size, the features decayed and worn away. The end and sides of this building had highly-ornamented fronts, portions of which have still withstood the ravages of time; each front has a pediment and cornice, supported by small pillars rising from the moulding of the subbase, arched niches for small statues and small pilasters with pannels square and circular, the whole in a surprising state of preservation.

The ranges of stone pillars which first attracted my attention, appear to have supported an open building similar to what is called an ambum: they stand about five feet out of a mound of earth, are plain, round octagonal or square shafts, of one stone each but none more than from a foot to 10 inches in diameter and never had capitals. A thick brick wall with a coping of stone appears by its remains to have formerly surrounded these buildings, and several large platforms, faced with brick and covered with ruins, appear thro' the jungle.

The inhabitants, of whom I enquired, informed me that these ruins are called the Naigues palace, and the head-man, remarking my admiration of them, told me he would send for an old Kandyan who could conduct me to a palace in the jungle, where I should find others far more extensive, the remains of buildings constructed by the Joharrums, or Giants. We set out at 4 P. M., and after walking about a mile thro' the jungle in an easterly direction a stupendous brick building, like the tombs of the Kings in Kandy, struck my view: the elevation of this building is from 80 to 100 feet, and it is surrounded by a beautiful circular obelisque or spire in good preservation, about 26 feet in height, towering magnificently over the surrounding plains and jungle; on the first view, the Kandians of my party uncovered their heads and prostrated themselves with marks of the greatest reverence. The whole of this great pyramid is built of the brick before described the coating of plaster which once incircled it has dropped off: large trees and patches of jungle are rooted in its circumference and project from the surface, and the fall of vast masses of the brick work, forced down by that natural destroyer of Ceylon architecture, the Indian fig tree, has left broad and deep chasms exhibiting only regular layers of the same material—from

remarking which, I am led to conclude that this vast pile is not a mound of earth faced with a brick wall, but that the whole structure is one great mass of brick masonry. I am also inclined to think that, like the Egyptian pyramids, it may contain a chamber in the centre. Round the base of this structure, and projecting about 10 or 15 feet from it, at equal distances, stand 16 small brick buildings, one open and one closed up alternately; those that are open are about ten feet in front, and measure 5 feet square inside; the entrance to each is by a small square door, the frame of stone; and the roofs are conical, opening at the top like chimneys; the remains in plaster of the usual guardian figures are visible on the sides of some of the doors of these buildings, from which I should be induced to call them small chapels: the buildings closed up are rather larger than the former, and have the appearance of tombs: the front of each is ornamented with small pilasters rising from the moulding of the subbase, supporting a cornice, on the astragals of which are regular lines of dentils like those of a Grecian architrave. I should not be surprised if a passage to the centre of the pyramid was found thro' some of these tombs. I paced round close to these buildings, and found the circumference measured 276 paces; a platform of about 30 feet wide, and faced with a brick wall 4 feet high, partly remaining, surrounding the whole.

At a short distance stands another pyramid of the same form, but smaller in all its dimensions, and without the chapels and tombs at its base; it is in far better preservation, the plaster still remains on most parts, and, although the fig tree roots have made deep openings in its sides, but very little of the brick-work has fallen down.

Near it stand the sides and end wall of a large square building, similar to that which I saw in the morning near the circular temple, but of great strength and magnitude, the walls being nearly six feet thick and of solid brick-work; a small arched window with stone bars remains in the side wall, but the roof and other parts have fallen in and filled the area. The whole of the standing walls are covered with ornaments in plaster, parts of which are in surprising preservation, an architrave and cornice project in front, supported by numerous small pillars, and containing arched niches for small statues, and panels between the pilasters, exhibiting dancing figures in relief; the cornice and frieze are covered with small grotesque human figures with pot bellies in all attitudes (about 7 inches high); the bands and fillet are covered with rows of small birds resembling geese, and made of burnt earth and chunam.

The evening was closing fast, and obliged me to leave these interesting objects to view one which my guide told me surpassed them all; and on advancing about $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile further in the jungle, I came upon what at first view appeared a large black rock, about 80 feet long and 30 high in the centre, and sloping towards the ends, and on advancing a few steps further found myself under a black and gigantic human figure at least 25 feet high. I cannot describe what I felt at the moment. On examination I found this to be a figure of Budhoo in an upright posture, of excellent proportions, and in an attitude I think uncommon, his hands laid gracefully across his breast, and his robe falling from his left arm. Close on his left lies another gigantic figure of the same sacred personage in the usual recumbent posture. I climbed up to examine it more minutely, and found that the space between the eyes measured one foot, the length of the nose 2 feet 4 inches, and the little finger of the hand under his head 2 feet: the size of the figure may be guessed from these proportions. On the right of the standing figure is the small door of the Vihari,* and on the right of the door another figure of the God, of the same proportions as the former two, and in the common sitting attitude; these figures are cut clear from the rock, and finely executed; but whether each is formed of one or more pieces, I forgot to examine. The Vihari is small and arched, with a pilaster on each side cut out of the rock, the old wooden door in good preservation; within sits Budhoo, on a throne, a little above the human size, with his usual many-headed and many-handed attendants. The apartment is narrow, and the ceiling low and painted in red ornament, the whole resembling others that I have seen in the seven Corles, Matele, &c. &c. Between the door and the standing figure, the rock is made smooth for about six foot square, and this space is covered with a close written Kandyan inscription perfectly legible. I may have overlooked many interesting points in this great monument of superstition, but it was nearly dark, and I was obliged to return to Topary. Various names are assigned by the people to the other buildings, but they all agree in calling this the Gallo Vihari. Close under the large pyramid, the people pointed out a cavity about 4 feet square and 15 deep, lined with brick, which I am inclined to think would, if cleared, lead to a subterraneous passage. There is a vague tradition among them that the Portuguese found immense treasures in this building, since which time they affirm that I am the only European by whom the ruins have been visited. The few poor Kandyans residing in the neighbourhood still worship in the Vihari. I enquired for their priests, hoping to obtain from them some further information, but was told they had but one, and he lived several miles off. The people spoke of some smaller ruins at a distance, but so overgrown with jungle that it was not possible to approach them. I could not discover the least appearance of water near these ruins, not the remains of any wells or other reservoirs from which the inhabitants could have been supplied.

I leave it to the curious in Ceylon antiquities

* A Temple dedicated to the worship of Budhoo.

to discover the reason that the people who built these great edifices should take the trouble of making so many millions of bricks for work, where there was abundance of fine stone well calculated for their construction in the immediate neighbourhood.

Whatever was the state of this part of the country in former times, it is now a sterile wilderness covered with impenetrable thorny jungle.—*Journal, July 24.*

LATEST EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCE.

SPECTATOR.—MAY 4TH.

We left the Ministry at the close of last week, to use Lord Althorp's expression, "in a state of extreme embarrassment,"—their retainers angry and dismayed, their foes full of high hope and sanguine anticipation. The Country gentlemen, however, soon became alarmed at the probable consequences of their own victory. It was a very easy matter, and a very delightful operation, no doubt, to raise the rent of barley-land by reducing the duty on Malt. But when it became apparent that the landed interest had only made the first breach in the revenue, and that the trading part of the nation was prepared to deepen and extend it, then dire anticipations of taxes upon Property and Income terrified them into submission to their Ministerial leaders. Accordingly, the vote of Friday was rescinded on the following Tuesday, by a majority of 355 to 157. The Malt-duty was reimposed, the House and Window tax fastened more firmly than ever (as our sage legislators hoped) upon Metropolitan shoulders, and the spectre of a Property-tax hooted out of the House of Commons. This was indeed a hardy, we suspect it will prove to be a foolhardy, proceeding. Lord ALTHORP'S resolution on Tuesday which was carried so triumphantly instead of Sir John Key's simple motion for the repeal of the House and Window tax, affirmed the inexpediency of making any important changes in the financial system of the country; in other words, it repudiated a Property-tax. It was agreed on all hands, that some substitute for the taxes proposed to be taken off would have to be found; and it was generally allowed, that a Property-tax must be that substitute. This, however, it seems the House would not listen to. The members were convinced of its injustice and inexpediency, by such arguments as the following, which we extract from the speech of Sir Robert Peel.

"There was one alternative to which the proposed reductions must inevitably lead—an Income and Property tax. To that species of taxation he was decidedly opposed. He did not pledge himself beyond the present period in making this statement: he spoke of the existing condition of the country, and pronounced an Income and Property tax, in reference to that condition, a great public calamity. He said an Income and Property tax, because he considered the two inseparable; and thought any attempt to tax Property without taxing Income, pregnant with the grossest injustice."

Now, when a person grossly and wilfully misstates the proposition of his antagonist in an argument, it is a fair presumption that he is unable to overthrow it if fairly put. This is what Sir Robert Peel, in conjunction with Lord Althorp, Mr. Baring, and others, has done in the above quotation. Nobody dreams of imposing an Income-tax of the odious description which Sir Robert Peel endeavoured, too successfully, to persuade his brother members must be the necessary result of reorganizing our financial system. If we entertained any doubts of the expediency of a Property-tax, they would, we think, be in a great measure removed by observing to what shifts an acute and clear-headed man like Sir Robert Peel is driven, in order to give his arguments against it even a plausible appearance.

A circumstance occurred which is likely to bear hard upon Lord Althorp's character, once proverbial for honesty. He was reported by all the newspapers to have declared his determination to acquiesce in the vote upon Sir William Ingilby's motion, and to carry it into effect. With scarcely an exception, also, the same interpretation on his language was put by the Members of the House who heard him speak. But it now appears, according to his own explanation, that he said nothing of the kind, and merely declined dividing the House upon the question a second time that night. Does not Lord Althorp's easy and good-natured disposition sometimes render him the prey of his more wily colleagues? Do not these latter now and then over persuade him to give singular explanations of his imprudently honest admissions? An excessively honest, good intentioned Minister, may be found occasionally, we suspect, quite as convenient a colleague as an unprincipled one.

The fear of being saddled with an Income-tax, then, was one of the main reasons for rescinding the vote of Friday week for the reduction of the Malt-duty. The Ministerial threat of resignation was another; the Members of the House of Commons consider the retirement of Ministers as a greater calamity than the loss of the confidence of their constituents, and of their own character for consistency and independence. The fear of an Income-tax, the possibility of which no rational reformer of our system of taxation ever contemplated, and the dread of embarrassing the Ministry of the day, are positively the only two reasons to be assigned in excuse for the extraordinary vote of Tuesday night; the alarming consequences of which are already clearly to be discerned on the political horizon. This was the great Parliamentary measure of the week. On Thursday, Mr. Richards brought forward his motion respecting the introduction of Poor-laws into Ireland. It was cushioned by Lord

Althorp; who proposed that a Commission should be appointed to inquire into and report upon the state of the Irish poor, previously to legislating on the subject of Mr. Richards's motion. The House of course acquiesced in this agreeable, easy, and now very usual, though unsatisfactory mode of getting rid of a troublesome matter.

Last night, Mr. COBBET'S resolutions on the subjects of the iniquitous operation of the Stamp and Auction duties were rejected, by a majority of 250 to 26. The debate proved a dull one; and, strange to say, Mr. Spring Rice was more pointed, and his speech appears to have told better, than that of his veteran antagonist, Mr. Rice went out of his way to bestow high-flown eulogium on the virtues of the nobility; which, as was justly remarked by Mr. Hume, met with more applause from the members of the House than it would be likely to receive from their constituents out of doors.

Lord ALTHORP moved last night for his promised Committee of Inquiry into the state of Agriculture and Trade,—preliminary, however, that in his opinion, they would be of little practical service. This is not very consolatory nor is it calculated to put people in good-humour with their representatives. The remark was uncalculated, and especially injudicious at this time.

Earl FITZWILLIAM has laid a string of resolutions on the subject of the Corn-laws on the table of the House of Lords. He intends to bring them under discussion on Tuesday week; notwithstanding Earl Grey, according to the policy of his Administration, expressed his regret that this difficult subject should be mooted at the present time.

We cannot say much in praise of the Parliamentary oratory of the week. The grand discussion on Tuesday did not produce a single good speech. The arguments on the Ministerial side were not even adroitly put, and did not meet with that thorough exposure from the Opposition which we had a right to expect.

SLAVE EMANCIPATION.

There was a numerous meeting of members of Parliament at Lord Althorp's office on Saturday, when Mr. Stanley fully explained the object and details of the Ministerial plan of slave emancipation. There seemed to be a very general disposition to support it. For ourselves, we are so fully aware of the difficulties which surround this important question, and are so thoroughly convinced of the sincerity with which the Ministers have addressed themselves to find a cure for an evil, the magnitude of which none acknowledge more feelingly than themselves, that we should be acting a most unjust part if we should, except on the most essential grounds, do anything to impede their benevolent endeavours: at the same time we shall not conceal the opinions which are entertained concerning their project by persons competent to form a judgment, for by such publication we shall render them a real service. The principal objection, is, we find, that the details are complicated and all but impracticable. We are sure that Ministers are not so pedantically attached to all the minutiae of their plan as not to take the advice of persons thoroughly conversant with the subject; and we would recommend them, while they firmly adhere to the principle of their measure, to consult the agents and proprietors of the different colonies as to the best and least vexatious mode of carrying that principle into application.

The subject will be discussed in Parliament to-morrow.

We have received from a correspondent, who is thoroughly acquainted with the measure, both in its object and details, the following explanation, which we will give in his own words, merely adding that we entreat our readers, whether abolitionists or planters, to throw aside their personal prejudices and passions, and to examine and consider the plan with calm temper, and in the spirit of justice. If the plan is bad let it be rejected; but let it be rejected deliberately, and not with precipitate rashness:—

"In another column will be found the outline of the Government plan for the extinction of slavery, containing some further particulars than those which were given in our impression of Saturday.

We invite the public attention to this very important subject, and we think that some further elucidation of its principles and details may be acceptable to our readers.

The first and most important clause enables the slaves immediately to acquire all the rights enjoyed by his fellow men.

Henceforth the slave will be a citizen of the state, with the same privileges, the same responsibilities, the same freedom of conscience, as his white brethren. All those odious and unnatural distinctions, which have been so jealously preserved in some of our colonies and so reluctantly modified in others, as to the testimony of the negro, are immediately and forever to cease; all those impediments which the narrow and selfish views of his owner have thrown in the way of his religious and moral improvement are to be instantly removed.

The 9th and 10th clauses of the plan show that the Government will not be lukewarm in this important duty. The second clause of the plan prescribes the terms of the contract by the acceptance of which the negro acquires the advantages of freedom. The negro will enter into an engagement to work upon a particular estate for the moderate interval of seven hours and a half per diem, in return for his clothing and maintenance; and such other necessities as he by law is now entitled to. He is thus, in the infancy of his freedom, at once secured from the evils of poverty and want, and from the still greater evil of unrestricted idleness.

This labour, however, is not to be the labour of slavery, but the industry of freedom; it is not to be wrung from the negro by the outrage of corporal punishment, capriciously inflicted on

him by the master, but it is to be secured to the master by the control of the law, in like manner as the industry of the labourer in this country who thinks fit to bind himself for a specific period.

We find, too, from the 8th clause of the plan, that the law will be administered, not by slave-owners or colonists, but by magistrates, selected and sent out from this country.

The Government, moreover, have fixed a limited duration and a certain termination to the apprenticeship. For this purpose it is intended that the labourer shall have the right to demand labour and wages from his master for that one-fourth of the working day which is left at the labourer's disposal.

The difficulty of fixing the wages is removed by a novel and ingenious expedient. The master is to fix himself the price of the slave, and wages are to bear a fixed proportion to that price; consequently, if the master fixes too high a price, he will have to pay very high wages. If he fixes too low a price, the apprenticed labourer will be able to buy off his apprenticeship, as will be seen from the 10th and 11th clauses of the second section of the plan, upon very easy terms.

Again, the termination of the apprenticeship is made certain by fixing the annual wages for the labourer's surplus working time at one-twelfth of the price. He may, therefore, put an end to the apprenticeship in 12 years, or earlier if, by extra industry or higher wages, or the kindness of his friends, he should be able at an earlier period to furnish the full amount of his price. The mode in which his price will thus be paid is calculated, to teach forethought and self-denial to the negro, for although the wages will be paid weekly, the tax, out of which the master will be reimbursed the price of the negro, will be collected at longer intervals. It would be dangerous, however, entirely to trust to the labourer's desire to terminate his apprenticeship, and a provision has accordingly been devised for compelling him to attain his unconditional freedom at the end of 12 years and a half.

The 9th section of the 2d clause of the plan prescribes, that if the labourer does not regularly furnish his half-yearly quota towards buying off his apprenticeship, the master must advance it, and thereby entitle himself to a corresponding part of the labourer's surplus working time during the preceding half-year. It is evident that the effect of this may be to protract the period of the apprenticeship one half-year, but no further, beyond the end of 12 years from the commencement of the apprenticeship.

It seems hardly necessary to advert to the other parts of the plan as respects the negro, except to point out that the contract, under which the negro will continue for 12 years, independently of the advantages he will derive under it, is calculated to create and strengthen in him those qualities which will most contribute to his welfare when he is absolutely free.

It remains for us to consider in what manner the Government plan affects the West India proprietor.

In the present state of public feeling respecting taxation, it would have been a hopeless and unwise attempt to have proposed to relieve that important and suffering interest by an actual grant of money, entailing a permanent charge on the nation. Justice, however, required that neither the whole loss nor the whole risk of this great national experiment should fall upon the planter.

The Government meets the difficulties of these circumstances in a remarkably skilful manner.

The continuance of sugar cultivation for 12 years is insured by the restrictions upon the negro during that period. At the end of that time the price which the master shall himself have set on the negro will have been paid to the master, and he will be left with that sum in his pocket, as the capital from which the wages of the negroes, who by that time, it is to be hoped, will be ready to work voluntarily for wages, will be paid.

Should this desirable result arrive, it is more than probable that the value of the rest of the proprietor's property will be greatly augmented, not only in respect of its security, but because labour performed for hire is universally admitted to be performed more cheaply and cheaply than that performed by purchased slaves.

In the mean time, the Government remove a large portion of the risk from the proprietor, by the loan of 15,000,000*l.* at 4 per cent. This sum appears to be the value of the net returns to the West India proprietors estimated at 10 years' purchase. This loan will be lent on the security of West India property only, and will not involve the borrower in the obligation of a personal loan; so that if the plan were to fail, and the consequences were to be disastrous to West India property, the pledge might be abandoned and the loan retained without the liability of repayment.

It is necessary to observe here, that some little doubt arises on the 5th clause of the plan, as it does not appear what is to become of the half-yearly payments after the loan shall have been paid off. We understand it is intended that the loans will be made, not to the island communities, but to individuals, and the respective sums advanced to them will in effect be separate loans. If, therefore, a West India proprietor value his slaves at a larger sum than the amount of his loan, that loan will be paid off by the taxes collected from his slaves previously to the expiration of the 12 years, and the subsequent taxes will be paid over to the proprietor by the Government.

It must be admitted that difficulties of no inconsiderable magnitude will occur in carrying into effect the details of this measure, difficulties which will be much aggravated by the violence of the extremes of each party, but it is

that if the plan is calmly and fairly considered by the public, they will be satisfied that nothing further could be done in the way of relief to the planter or benefit to the slave, without subjecting the parent country to a very heavy outlay.—*Times*, May 13.

MONEY-MARKET and CITY INTELLIGENCE.

We have found occasion before to draw attention to the spirit of commercial enterprise and industry which has for some time past been manifesting itself in the United States, and it appears by the files of papers last received that these have gained a great additional stimulus since the settlement of the South Carolina question. The demand both for British and French manufactures is active and extensive throughout the whole of the Union. One of the chief sources of this, it appears, is the trade in tea, which is expected to undergo an increase in the present year, of from 8,000,000 to 12,000,000 of pounds, the funds for the purchase of those teas, though of course imported direct, being provided by shipments of British manufactures, and credits on London. The duty on tea in the United States having been taken off, tea which would cost in England about 3s. 6d. the pound would cost in New York about 1s. only.

This example is selected as one of the most striking, among many others, of the causes which are communicating spirit and activity, and bestowing wealth on the whole of the Union; but another, and perhaps still more important feature of that country, is the liberal expenditure on the means of internal conveyance, and the ample return, though the activity of trade, which it is giving for the capital so employed. In some cases this has been accomplished by the states through which the canals and rail-roads pass, and in others by the subscriptions of private individuals. The state of Pennsylvania, for instance, has recently raised a loan of Drs. 2,500,000 for the completion of the canals and railroads on which it is engaged. The transportation of goods from the city of New York to Lake Erie, through the rivers and canals of Jersey and Pennsylvania, will be quicker and cheaper than through the great canal from Albany to Buffalo. This last undertaking is, however, very prosperous. It yields to the state of New York 16 per cent. on the capital employed. The canal commissioners now hold an accumulation of profits amounting to Drs. 1,000,000, applicable to the redemption of the canal loans, which amount to about Drs. 3,500,000; and it is estimated that in 1837, at which time those loans are redeemable, the accumulation of canal profits will amount to Drs. 5,000,000.

The great work for effecting a communication between Chesapeake Bay and the river Ohio is prosecuted with vigour.

It is a matter not less curious and instructive than any above stated, that some of the states of the American Union are adopting measures in regard to banking on a principle which has frequently been inculcated here, and which is not unlikely, from what has recently transpired upon the subject, to be adopted by our own Government in the new arrangements about to be made with the Bank of England. The state of Alabama, for example, has recently made a loan of Drs. 3,500,000, in order to raise a capital which is meant to be again lent out, at a superior rate of interest, to the banks of Mobile, Montgomery, and Tennessee Valley. Thus these economical little governments endeavour to appropriate to themselves the profit arising from banking, as well as from canals, since they borrow, in effect, at the rate of about five per cent. to obtain a bank capital that will yield them from eight to nine per cent. This process requires, of course, to be carefully watched, lest it should lead to a system of extravagant, instead of solid and useful, speculations. On the whole, provided the states adhere together, a career of prosperity seems to be opening for the great American Union such as the world has never before witnessed.

Nothing is talked of in the city but the West India plan, and we find that among practical men of all classes, who have an interest, direct or indirect, in the question, that dissatisfaction with its provisions is rapidly spreading. Among other objections to it which we have met with, some contend that it is a violation, though not so intended, of the principle of free trade, for by giving as a boon to the West India proprietors the further monopoly of the home trade, they impose an indirect tax on every consumer of sugar throughout Great Britain. At the same time that one-fourth part of the labour of the slave is taken away, and the consequent production of sugar diminished in the same proportion in our own colonies, all tending to raise its price, is the consumer excluded from the foreign markets in which he ought to complete his supply and obtain a check to such advance in its price. The planters all treat it as a robbery on them, in taking away without compensation such portion of the slave's labour, so that they are, in fact, taxed, though the tax is spread over the whole series of 12 years, for entire emancipation of the slaves, who will still continue equally dependent on them in sickness or in any incapacity to labour. The details of the plan are felt by them to be impracticable, while the mere announcement of it, which will go out to the West Indies by the packet now waiting at Falmouth, threatens, as they conceive, the most dangerous consequences to the colonies of all the colonies. The

said, strongly urged a further delay in bringing the measure before Parliament, in order to have time to state fully all their objections to it. We give the above as the state of feeling in the city on this question, which has produced a degree of excitement there beyond anything that has occurred for a very long period. This excitement is undoubtedly a bar with many persons to a fair consideration of the subject, but it is proper to add that there still remains a very large and independent class who make allowance for the difficult situation in which Ministers are placed, and who are willing at least to wait for the arguments to be adduced in support of the proposed measure.—*Times*, May 13.

SLAVE EMANCIPATION.

[The following is a more correct statement of the plan than what appeared on Saturday:—]

It is proposed—
1. That every slave, upon the passing of the intended act, shall be at liberty to claim, before the protector of slaves, custos of the parish, or such other officer as shall be named by His Majesty for that purpose, to be registered as an apprenticed labourer, and shall thenceforth immediately enjoy all the rights and privileges of a free man, shall be capable of giving evidence in all courts, criminal as well as civil, and as well against their employers as against any other persons, of serving upon juries, and in the militia—of attending whatever place of worship or teacher of religion he pleases, and shall have and enjoy all other rights and privileges whatsoever of a British subject.

11. That the terms of such apprenticeship should be—

1st. That the power of corporal punishment should be altogether taken from the master, and transferred to the magistrate.

2d. That in consideration of food and clothing, and such allowances as are now made by law to the slave, the labourer should work for his master three-fourths of his time, leaving it to be settled by contract whether for three-fourths of the week or of each day. That by a day is here understood only ten hours, seven and a half of which are to be for the master as above, in consideration of food, clothing, and lodging, and that all the time above such ten hours is not to be affected by these regulations.

3d. That the labourer should have a right to claim employment of his master for the remaining one-fourth of his time, according to a fixed scale of wages.

4th. That during such one-fourth of his time the labourer should be at liberty to employ himself elsewhere.

5th. That the master should fix a price upon the labourer at the time of his apprenticeship.

6th. That the wages to be paid by the master should bear such a proportion to the price fixed by him, that for the whole of his spare time, if given to the master, the negro should receive 1-12th of his price annually; and in proportion for each lesser term.

7th. That every negro, on becoming an apprentice, shall be entitled to a money payment weekly, in lieu of food and clothing, should he prefer it, the amount to be fixed by a magistrate with reference to the actual cost of the legal provision.

8th. That every apprenticed labourer be bound to pay a portion, to be fixed, of his wages, half yearly, to an officer to be appointed by His Majesty.

9th. That in default of such payment the master be liable, and, in return, may exact an equivalent amount of labour without payment in the succeeding half-year.

10th. That every apprenticed negro, on payment of the price fixed by his master, or such portion of it as may from time to time remain due, be absolutely free.

11th. That every such apprentice may borrow the sum so required, and bind himself, by contract before a magistrate, for a limited period, as an apprenticed labourer to the lender.

12th. That a loan to the amount of 15,000,000l. sterling be granted to the proprietors of West Indian estates and slaves, on such colonial security as may be approved by commissioners appointed by the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury.

13th. That such loan be distributed among the different colonies, in a ratio compounded of the number of slaves, and the amount of exports.

14th. That the half-yearly payments hereinbefore authorized to be made by the apprenticed negroes, be taken in liquidation of so much of the debt contracted by the planter to the public.

15th. That all children born after the passing of the intended act, or who at the time of its passing shall be under the age of six years be free, and be maintained by their respective parents.

16th. That in failure of such maintenance they be deemed apprentices to the master of the parents (without receiving wages), the males till the age of 24, the females to the age of 20, at which periods respectively, they and their children, if any, should be absolutely free.

17th. That this act shall not prevent His Majesty from assenting to such acts as may be passed by the Colonial Legislatures for the promotion of industry or the prevention of vagrancy, applicable to all classes of the community, and that respectable persons, wholly unconnected with the Colonists, shall be sent out to act as District Magistrates and other officers, for the protection of the negroes and preservation of the peace.

18th. That upon the recommendation of the Colonies, His Majesty will be prepared to grant such aid as may be necessary for the due support

of the administration of justice, of an efficient police establishment, and of a general system of religious and moral education.

X. And that with this view effectual protection shall be given to all teachers of religion of whatever persuasion.—*Times*, May 13.

THE WESTMINSTER MOB.

TIMES.—To any discussions at the Westminster nomination we could have had no objection, had the several candidates been suffered to make themselves heard; nor to groans and hisses continued a reasonable time against those whose conduct or sentiments were disagreeable to the auditors, however few of them might be electors, should we offer much opposition; but on the unmanly and disgusting violence which endangers human life, if it even were the life of our most rancorous political opponent, we must heap our severest reprobation. What could the brutes, unworthy the name of men and of Englishmen, mean by disgracing—not themselves, for they could not show themselves worse than they were, but—what did they mean by thus disgracing our public assemblies, and the exercise of the elective franchise? And why did not the police interfere and apprehend all those whom they saw guilty of positive breaches of the peace by hurling missiles at the heads of the candidates? If Sir John Hobhouse cannot defend himself by his speeches, let him fall; but let him first be heard, and in any case let not a ferocious and sanguinary mob, having nothing to do with the election, be suffered, as they would do if not restrained, to destroy one of the candidates, even though the guilty person or persons may have to suffer the penalty of the law afterwards for murder. The proceedings in the way of acts at the Westminster nomination yesterday were truly disgusting. The speeches, as they are given, and as they could be collected, will throw but little light upon the conduct or character of the speakers. The speeches which were not suffered to be uttered would contain the pith and marrow of the argument; a farce, no doubt got up and previously rehearsed, was acted before the assembled mob between Colonel Evans and Mr. Wakley, the former responding to all the questions put catechetically by the latter goodly examiner. Mr. Wakley said "he would not trust his own brother without a pledge." We dare say he would not, neither, probably, would his brother trust him; but are such men a rule for the rest of mankind? "would Colonel Evans vote for abridging septennial Parliaments?" "Yes, he would." "Would he vote for the repeal of the house and window taxes?" Of the corn laws! In favour of the ballot?" "He would vote for all these." Then, says Mr. Wakley to the gallant Colonel, "you are the man for us? you shall be our Duke of Wellington." The Duke of Wellington of Mr. Wakley and his mob must be a very comical Duke of Wellington, no doubt, to say the least of it. "But will you our Duke of Wellington," says Mr. Wakley, "resign your seat when we call upon you?" "Yes says the gallant Colonel, the Wakley-Wellington. That I will most readily; I have already said so." On the subject of resigning seats, however, we think that the proceedings which have led to this very election may instil a useful lesson of caution. Sir J. Hobhouse, at a meeting immediately after the nomination, again distinctly repeated the declaration which he had already twice made—that he had resigned his office—that his resignation had been accepted—and that he would not return to office. Do not the fools, or knaves, who accuse him of playing false see that his return to office would vacate his seat, and fling him again among his electors? His safer course, had he been a juggler, would have been to keep his office, instead of giving it up in order to resume it.

If only to go in Sir John goes out.
The way he takes is strongly roundabout.
Were ever such wretched dolts as these Rump-
law brawlers!—*Atlas*, May 12.

TIMES.—MAY 10.

The French for the last three years have been committing the same kind of folly which we had committed for so long a time before the termination of the war, and which we have since abandoned, with the full approbation of every sensible man in the country. They have been maintaining a sinking fund for buying up dividends, or the interest of their debt, with one hand, while they have been borrowing money, or imposing the payment of new interest, with the other. Ever since the revolution of July, 1830, their expenditure has exceeded their ordinary income 6,000,000l. or 8,000,000l. sterling a-year, and yet they religiously abstained from any diminution of their sinking fund. The amount of this fund appropriated annually for the redemption of debt is 44,616,463 francs, or somewhat less than 2,000,000l. sterling, and the Government has been obliged to borrow annually 6,000,000l. or 8,000,000l. sterling. Instead of applying the former 2,000,000l. to reduce the necessity of borrowing in the first instance, or, in other words, to diminish the amount of new loans, they borrowed all the sum required for the public service, or contracted new debt, to be ultimately paid off by a fund which, if applied in the first instance, would, to the extent of its own value, have prevented its creation. They thus maintained the juggles by which we were so long deluded, or insulted, implying the principle that a nation, or an individual, may or can get rich or pay off debts by borrowing.

The present Minister of Finance in the French Government has departed from this absurd policy, and has appropriated nearly the half of the ordinary sinking fund to the service of the ensuing year. He calculates the supplies for 1834 at 1,019,000,000 of francs, or nearly 41,000,000l.; while the ordinary revenue, or

the annual ways and means, at the disposal of the Government, amount only to about 980,000,000. There would thus be a deficit of about 39,000,000 of francs, which he proposes to cover by appropriating 20,000,000 of francs from the sinking fund, and by imposing an additional duty on wine and spirits to the amount of 20,000,000 more. France will still, therefore, have a sinking fund of diminished amount, but it will be a real one, arising from an excess of income over expenditure. Besides the annual sum of 46,000,000l. arising from the original per centage set apart for the reduction of debt, the Finance Minister has at his disposal 49,383,539l. of redeemed dividends, which, instead of being allowed to accumulate, may either be cancelled or employed in diminution of the ordinary charges of the year. If joined to the original dotation of the fund, the whole will constitute a surplus of nearly 3,000,000l. sterling for the redemption of debt, even after deducting the 20,000,000l. to be applied in 1834 to the service of the state.

The Finance Minister had expressed a hope to be able in the course of the present session to reduce the 5 per Cents., of which the debt of France mainly consists, to a stock at a lower interest. This project he has for the present abandoned, but as the 5 per Cents. are now above par, it would be absurd in the Government to repurchase their own securities at a higher rate than their nominal value, when they can actually pay them off at par. Hence the new project of law to direct the application of the sinking fund alluded to in our Paris correspondence of yesterday.

TURKEY AND EGYPT.

The question to be addressed this evening to the noble Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, on the late events in Turkey and the armed interference of the Russian Government in the Turco-Egyptian quarrel, must call forth answers full of important or interesting information to the country.

The noble ex-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in the House of Peers on Friday, spoke from an official knowledge of one branch of the subject of Turkish affairs—namely, the conquest of Algiers; and discreetly abstained from pressing disclosures as to more recent events or negotiations in the East. It may not be generally understood, but we think that we cannot incur any charge of error in stating, that the document alluded to by Lord Aberdeen, and the production of which was objected to by Earl Grey, was a despatch from Lord Stuart, our Ambassador at Paris in 1830, describing an interview with Louis Philippe after the revolution of July, 1830, in which his present Majesty the King of the French engaged to observe every diplomatic condition undertaken by his predecessor, Charles X., with respect to the capture of Algiers. The despatch unfortunately contained an account only of a mere personal interview, without the presence of a responsible minister. The engagements which it announced could not, on that account, be considered as binding on a constitutional monarch, who can only act through the medium, or under the responsibility, of his acknowledged advisers. We have hitherto studiously abstained from expressing any opinion on the conduct of France with regard to the conquest of Algiers, or the policy of England in making no remonstrance against it; and we shall not now say anything further on the subject. It is quite evident that the Government of Charles X., with Polignac at its head, intended to have conferred glory on the French arms by stealing an easy conquest on the coast of Africa; and that the permanent retention of that conquest by France, for the purpose of colonization, was only not an act of perfidy, because Polignac cunningly contrived to avoid, under various pretexts affording a positive stipulation of its ultimate surrender.

The news of the capture of this African colony arrived, if we remember right, in July, 1830. This military success was thought of so great importance to the stability of the Bourbon throne, that it turned the heads of the Ministry, and determined the publication of those fatal ordinances, dated the 25th of July, which actually overthrew the Government and expelled the dynasty. The "Government of the Barricades" could not abandon any glory gained under the Bourbons; and as the Duke of Wellington had obtained no written engagement from Prince Polignac on this point, the present English Administration could not take any immediate step, either to procure an explanation or to enforce a surrender, without some danger to the new dynasty, or without claiming the fulfilment of verbal engagements, which probably were not worth enforcing at the hazard of a rupture during so interesting a crisis. In the mean time our good French neighbours have been proceeding in their African projects of colonization as if the whole affair of right had been solemnly settled; though, to judge from their small success, we should say that only shame restrains them from reinstating his highness the Dey in the plenitude of his authority. On that subject, however, which requires a long development, we shall say nothing further at present.

On the question of Turkey and Egypt we meet with interesting parties and more pressing interests. Here we find a contest about the sovereignty of a great empire, which scarcely a century and a half ago alarmed Europe with the fear of subjugation, a vassal of the Porte threatening the overthrow of the Ottoman throne, and two of the greatest Powers of Europe contending for the right of protecting the infidel against the rebellious ambition of his satrap. In looking again at the series of documents published by these rival Powers to justify their conduct

on the stage of Oriental politics, we find that they make no allusion to England. The promptitude with which Russia offered her support to a Government which only three or four years ago she had brought to the brink of ruin, and forced to sign an ignominious capitulation, must have appeared alarming to the most indifferent spectators of the distribution of European power. Without consulting her allies, she sends a General Officer to Alexandria to order, in the name of the Sultan, the Viceroy of Egypt to desist from his project of aggrandizement and recall his army. Meanwhile she offers of her own accord, or agrees to grant, the assistance of a fleet and an army to defend the Turkish capital, and to repel the expected aggression of its invader. A French Minister arrives, and finds these stipulations made without any concert with the other Powers; he blusters, threatens, alarms the Porte on the views and powers of his master, and procures an engagement that the Russian fleet shall be ordered home, and that the approach of the Russian troops shall be countermanded, on an engagement that the Egyptian Viceroy will submit to terms proposed by the Porte under his mediation. The language which he employs, without acting on the Viceroy, enrages the Russian autocrat, and as big words are not found so good as ships of the line, with transports of troops, the Russian Government orders its fleet to remain in the Bosphorus, commands its troops to sail from Odessa, and points the road to a large military force from the Danube. The Russian squadron arrived on the 21st of February, the first division of Russian troops was disembarked on the 4th of March, and by this time, perhaps, a large Russian fleet of 20 sail, and an army to the amount of 50,000 men, may hold in subjection, or under protection, the seat of the Turkish empire. The Autocrat has declared that he will keep his hold of the Turkish capital till the Viceroy has admitted and recalled his army.

In all these transactions we hear nothing of an English agent, or of an English force, or English diplomacy, or English ships. We have at present, no Minister at Constantinople; we had not, till within these few weeks, any diplomatic agent at Alexandria; and we have not heard that our naval force in the Archipelago has been increased, in contemplation of a state of things which must have been foreseen as likely to demand a reinforcement. It is extremely probable that all these things may be explained to the satisfaction of the most punctilious assessor of our national dignity, and we anticipate such a result; but, in the mean time, we must say that the French and the Russians have most unaccountably left us out in the whole of their diplomatic notes, negotiations, and transactions, and that it will be agreeable for us to hear that modestly alone has prevented us from appearing to have our due influence in the affairs of "our ancient ally," or in the counsels of an able chief, who is reported to have asked our advice and to have offered to abide by our decision.—*Times*, May 6.

The Russians are now the virtual masters of Constantinople. A considerable detachment of their troops disembarked on the 5th April on the Asiatic shore opposite the Turkish capital. Reinforcements were immediately expected, which would raise the amount of this force to 16,000 men. Another Russian army, of much greater force, had crossed the Balkan, and was in full march upon Constantinople, while their fleet lies ready in the Bosphorus to sail for the protection of the Sultan at an hour's notice. There appears to be no probability, however, of the Egyptians hazarding an attack upon the capital, thus guarded, either by sea or land, and it is reasonable to suppose that Mehemet Ali will accede to the terms of peace which the Russians may choose to impose upon him in the name of the Sultan. The Russian overtures will be backed by fleets and armies; while the vapouring of the French Ambassador and Admiral, Roussin, was utterly destitute of such auxiliaries.

The Empress CATHERINE made a road through one of the Southern provinces of Russia, which she christened "the road to Constantinople." The late American President Jefferson prophesied that she would find it "a very stumpy one." It would seem, however, that all obstructions have, by perseverance and good fortune, at length been removed, and the road to Constantinople lies open and inviting, to the troops of the Czar. There appear to have been some gross miscalculations on the part of the English and French Governments during the whole of this Eastern campaign.—*Spectator*, May 4.

WHAT DOES THE DUKE OF ORLEANS COME FOR?—To take away the Princess Victoria, say the ladies; to secure the savings of Louis Philippe, in case of another revolution, say the fundholders; to negotiate an alliance against Russia, in which England is too timid to go the full length of aspiring France, say the politicians; to hasten the repairs of Claremont, say the Dutch merchants, to be ready for the reception of Leopold and Louise; and lastly, to convince the English government that the liberals are too strong in France and in England, and that a King crowned by the barricades, and a ministry appointed by the political unions, must conspire to put down, and trample under foot, reform and revolution.—*Atlas*, May 12.

PARIS.—MAY 11.

A telegraphic despatch, received yesterday by Government from Blaye, announces that the Duchess de Berri has been safely delivered of a daughter, and that both mother and child are doing well. Thus the object of the legitimists, in repeatedly affirming that she was in

a dying state owing to confinement, has failed. They sought by that means to obtain her enlargement and expulsion from France before the period of her *accouchement*, because a declaration of the truth would have been rendered inevitable on that occasion if it took place in France. It will be necessary for her to say who the father of child is; if she decline mentioning any, the child must, by the laws of France, be reckoned a bastard; if she shows it to be the fruit of a legitimate union, she forfeits her title of guardian to Henry V., and thenceforward her influence over, and connexion with, the party of the pretender entirely cease. Your excellent correspondent "N." has already apprised you of a scheme formed to preserve the fame of the captive Duchess. That scheme has been imagined by her nearest relatives, and, if persisted in, will be acted upon forthwith. You will find the statement of it reproduced in most of the Paris papers, on the authority of your correspondents, and to have excited no small degree of curiosity here on the present occasion. Some of the papers do not give an accurate interpretation to your correspondent's allusion to the 40,000*l.* claimed by Prince Ruffo. That there may not be any further misunderstanding about the matter, it may as well be stated at once that the bargain with the Neapolitan Prince was proposed to him after the *grossesse* of the Duchess had become manifest, and that he has consented to figure as the legitimate father by means of a sum of money which has been at last fixed at 1,000,000 of francs. The King of Naples, brother of the Duchess de Berri, has taken an active part in the negotiation. He has consented to pay a part of the money. The other near relatives are to make up the remainder. If the marriage of the Duchess with this Prince is stated in the *acte de naissance* and the *extraît baptismaire*, a date will, of course, be assigned to it, which will make it appear that there is nothing questionable in the legitimacy of the child's birth. Whichever way the matter is ultimately arranged, a blow has been given to the political career of the Duchess de Berri, which will prove more fatal to it than the walls of Blaye. We shall probably cease to be favoured by the Carlist papers with diurnal lamentations respecting the effects of captivity on the health of the Duchess; and if the *Gazette de France* persist in the black stripes with which it has of late regularly surrounded some of its columns, it will probably be owing to the death blow received by the cause which that paper has advocated till now.

With the public here, the news respecting the delivery of the Duchess de Berri has not created the smallest sensation. The pretensions of the Carlist party have always appeared to me to be held, very justly, as quite beneath notice; but at no time has the public mind been so indifferent to them as at the present moment.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—MAY 3.

SYSTEM OF TAXATION.

Mr. CORBETT rose to make a complaint on the part of the working classes of England, Scotland, and Ireland, on account of the great partiality of taxation, of which they were the victims. They complained of the various duties for stamps and auctions which were laid upon them, and from the payment of the greater part of which the richer portion of the population escaped. Of the £8,000,000 which were raised from the taxes on stamps and auctions, including the sums lost in the collection of them, a very small portion indeed was paid by those who could best afford to pay them. He was afraid (for the character of human nature) that he should make it further appear, though he was by no means anxious so to do that this inequality of imposition had been effected by design and premeditation; in fact, when he had made his statement the House would see that it was impossible the case could have been otherwise. The resolution he was about to propose contained a statement of facts drawn from Acts of Parliament and not built upon loose conjectures; they were quite undeniable, and not assumed from the erroneous calculations of assessors and commissioners. The first proposition, or rather preamble, of his motion stated, that the compelling of one part of the community to pay a tax from which another part of the community, having the same or greater means, was exempt, was a clear and undeniable confiscation. Now if this proposition were denied, he should like to know in what consisted the confiscation, so called of a graduated property tax, of which it was now the fashion to talk so much? The Hon. Gentleman opposite whenever the question of a property tax was agitated, took pretty good care to cry out that each individual in the state should be compelled to pay his due proportion of taxation. But what was the case with regard to the taxes he had referred to? Why they were the effects of pure tyranny, pressing with ten, a hundred, nay, a thousand fold, more weight upon the poor than on the rich. If that was not tyranny, then Dr. Johnson was no authority as a lexicographer. The Noble Lord, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he first accepted office, had come down to the House with a proposition for taxing the funds, by laying a duty upon the transfer of that species of property; but the fundholders took the alarm, and they found means somehow or other to frighten the Noble Lord from completing the imposition of that tax. Property in the funds appeared to him (Mr. Corbett) to be something more than personal property. It was fixed there as much as a freehold was fixed upon the land, and yet it was assumed by all that funded property was not to pay a single farthing of taxation. His second resolution declared that in drawing up the acts "imposing certain duties on stamps, amounting annually in the aggregate, to upwards of £7,000,000 a-year, the utmost care has been taken to exempt the nobility and great landed proprietors from bearing any but a very small share of the burden and further to make the tax heavier and heavier in proportion to the smallness of the amount of property on which it is levied." The third resolution stated, "That by the first of the said acts various duties on legacies are imposed, applicable to different degrees of relationship between the legatees and the successors and the deceased, beginning at one per cent. and going on to ten per cent.; but that from these duties all freehold property is wholly exempt, and therefore, from this tax, which is, on an average about three per cent.

(beside the probate duty) on all other property in the kingdom left by will, the estate of the nobility and landed gentry (including the advowsons and lay tythes were exempted, while the father, the mother, the child, of the fundholder, the tradesman, the farmer, or other person bequeathing personal property, has one per cent. to pay on the amount of the legacy, while a brother, who has £1,000*l.* left him by a brother has £30 to pay on this duty, and while a distant relation of the deceased has, on a legacy of the same amount, to pay £100*l.* What answer could be given to that except a declaration that it was not true? These duties fell most heavily on the middle classes. One of his correspondents informed him that he had to pay £13 for two years in order to obtain a legacy of £50 a year, which had been left to his wife and children. The fourth resolution was, "That in regard to the probates of wills and letters of administration on intestate succession, if the deceased leave property above the value of 2*l.* his successors have to pay a stamp duty of 1*s.*—that is to say, at the rate of two per cent. on the value of the property; but that if the party dying leave by will any sum from £30,000 to 500,000 the duty is only per cent; and that, in this case, again, all freehold property is exempted." Why should this inequality exist. A short time since a Right Hon. Baronet (Sir R. Peel) paid probate duty to the amount of £15,000*l.* That was said to be the largest sum ever paid for probate duty; but if he had paid in the same proportion as a widow in the middle class he ought to have paid £30,000*l.* How would the Right Honorable Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. S. Rice) answer it. He hoped it would not be by saying there was any disadvantage in possessing £500,000. On a former night he (Mr. Corbett) had stated that it would be confiscation to impose such a property tax as would make the rich pay more than the poor in proportion; he applied that principle to the present case, and called upon the House not to sanction the confiscation of the poor man's property. When he brought the subject under the consideration of the House on a former occasion, the Noble Chancellor of the Exchequer answered him in a very unsatisfactory manner. He said, that if the nobility and gentry were taxed in the same manner as the middle classes, all their estates would have come to the Government in the course of 100 years. That would happen in a much shorter time. Baron Maseros at the time that act was passed, said that in fifteen years all the personal property in the country would pass through the hands of the Government. The Hon. Member then read the fifth resolution which declared that in duties on conveyances of all sorts, the poor man paid twenty times as much as the rich man on precisely the same sort of property and that the weight of the duty went on increasing from 10*s.* per cent to 20*s.* per cent, exactly in the proportion that the value of the property became smaller and smaller in amount. He again animadverted upon the partiality which was displayed towards the rich in this instance; and then stated that in 1822, at the time when the Bank of England let about £4,000,000 at 4 per cent. upon security deposited with them, an act was passed by which the rich were still further protected, the duty on the transfer of a mortgage to the amount of £1,000,000 being no higher than that on the transfer of one to the amount of £200*l.* The country expected either a justification or a denial of that fact. That was the only way in which the question could be met, and his Hon. Comptroller might thank him for having put the matter into that form; because when he came to reply, it would save him a vast deal of declamation, as well as the unmerciful beating which he would have given the poor red box, upon the table (much laughter).—The sixth resolution stated, that in the case of leases of lands, tenements, &c., where the yearly rent was £5, the stamp-duty was £1, or 20 per cent, but where the yearly rent was £1,000, or any sum above that the stamp-duty was £10, or 11 per cent. and that the tax went on from £100 a year rental to £5 a year rental, getting heavier and heavier, but increasing in the small rentals in a most disproportionate manner. The 7th resolution declared, that in the case of the stamps on mortgages, the poor man paid forty times as much tax as the rich man, and that the stamp was no more if the amount of the mortgage be £10,000, so that in a case like that, the poor man paid two hundred times as much tax as the rich man. The 8th resolution declared that the poor man paid forty times as much tax as the rich man, and that the tax went on getting heavier and heavier as the parties became poorer and poorer. This said the Hon. Member was indeed a cruel thing. Could the men who passed this act have human feelings? He believed that the Noble Lord was not aware of its nature at the time it was before the House. Indeed one or the order of the Noble Lords had told him that the House knew nothing about what they were doing; but the person who drew up the act—there was no excuse for him. He must have been some dirty-souled underling scrub of a lawyer—(A laugh) divested of all conscience and feeling. The 9th resolution declared that in the case of promissory notes and bills of exchange, not exceeding two months after date, if the sum were 4*l.*, or above 4*l.*, and not exceeding £5 5*s.* the stamp is 1*s.*, and in the same proportion the stamp on £3,000 ought to be £28 11*s.* but that it paid only 15*s.*; and that for any higher sum the stamp was no more than £1 5*s.* instead of being, on £10,000, £95 4*s.*, and that therefore in the former case, while the poor man paid nearly £1 per cent, the rich man paid 6*d.* per cent, and in the latter case, while the poor man paid nearly £1 per cent, the rich man paid 3*d.* per cent, and that therefore, in the first case, the poor man paid 40 times as much as the rich man; and in the latter case nearly 80 times as much as the rich man, and here, as in all other cases, the tax became heavier and heavier as the taxpayer became poorer and poorer, and that in bills of a longer date than two months the partiality was still greater and weighed still more heavily on the needy man. A few nights ago, the Hon. member proceeded to say something like an answer upon this point was attempted by the Right Hon. vice president upon the Board of Trade, who was a great dealer in figures and calculation. The Right Hon. Gentleman asked who would draw a bill of exchange for £10,000 if he were obliged to pay £95 4*s.* for a stamp? Did he (Mr. Corbett) ever propose that the rich man should pay £95 4*s.*? On the contrary, he was perfectly willing that the rich man should pay a duty of only £4 or 5 on drawing a £10,000 bill and then if a poor man were taxed in proportion, he would pay only 2*d.* or 3*d.* (Hear.) This, however, would not suit the scheme of laying the heaviest charges on the greatest number. It was a good scheme for grinding the money out of the pockets of the poor, but after all it was not a wise one; it was endured for a long time, it was not a statement such as to which would produce any

the Government weak. He had no desire to disguise the fact—he meant that his resolution should produce an effect from one end of the kingdom to another. It was his duty to endeavour to produce that effect. He called upon the House to do justice to the middle classes, and if they refused, let the consequences fall on their heads, and not on his. There was another point to which he would for a moment refer. He had been informed within a day or two, that a person paid as much stamp duty on the warrant for removing a pipe of wine from the docks as he would for a warrant which authorised him to remove a thousand. This was monstrously unjust but it was a part of the system. The burden of taxation was made to rest chiefly upon those persons who ought to be exempt from it as much as possible. The class of men who were just emerging from poverty, who stood between the artisans and labourers on the one hand and traders of great opulence on the other, were precisely the class of men whom Government ought to take by the hand and lift up, instead of which their sole object seemed to be to crush them. The 10th resolution declared, "That in the case of receipts, if the sum be £2 the stamp is 2*d.*, if the sum be £10,000 the stamp is 1*s.*, when in due proportion, it pays more than eight times as much tax as the rich man and if the sum go on increasing to £1,000,000, still the stamp is only 10*s.* and that for any sum expressed to be in full of all demands, whether it be for 2*l.*, or £1,000,000 the stamp is always 10*s.*, so that in this case it may be fairly said that the poor man pays a thousand times as much tax as the rich. It was observed a few nights since that it was not the shopkeepers but their customers who paid the assessed taxes, but at all events the customers did not pay for the receipt which the tax gatherer gave them. The shopkeeper very naturally disliked to pay the tax gatherer without getting a receipt, but he would not give it without the shopkeeper paid for it; thus the people were in fact taxed for being taxed—(a laugh);—the like he never knew, except the manner in which the Turks treated the Tartars, who, after having eaten up their victuals laid upon them a tooth tax. The 11th resolution stated, that in the case of the duty on appraisements the people in the middle rank of life paid in many cases, paid 250 times as much as the rich. Nobody, the Hon. Member observed, but a lawyer could have had a soul cunning and black enough to have framed this part of the act. The 12th resolution referred to the duty on deeds of apprenticeship, and here the scale of duties was perfectly fair—it went on increasing in proportion to the amount. This showed them that the injustice which he had pointed out in the other parts of the act was not accidentally committed—it did not arise from a want of knowledge of arithmetic. Oh, no; the arithmetic was quite correct in the matter of apprentices; but then it unfortunately happened that the children of the nobility were not put out as apprentices; so that the Bill operated in partially only in the case in which it could not possibly affect the rich. The 13th resolution was as follows:—"That according to the aforesaid act, every transfer, assignment, disposition, or conveyance of any mortgage, or wadset, had a duty, imposed upon it, on a certain ad valorem class; so that the transfer, disposition, assignment, &c. paid the same ad valorem duty as was imposed on the original mortgage or wadset; but, that by the last of the aforesaid acts, viz. chapter 117 of the 3d Geo. IV., an alteration was made in this respect, and in such wise as to make the duty in all cases whatsoever the same sum—namely, £1 15*s.*; so that the stamp on the transfer of a mortgage of £200,000 or £1,000,000 of money was the same as the year last mentioned, began the same as on the transfer of a mortgage of no more than £200; thus compelling the tradesman or other small proprietor to pay just the same amount of duty on the transfer of his small mortgage, as is paid by the peer upon the transfer of a mortgage on lands occupying half a county, to the amount of two hundred of those sands of pounds. There was another item which also showed what precious care the rich took of themselves at the expense of the poor—he meant the exemption of the sales of timber and underwood by great swollen landlords from all duty while a duty of 1*s.* in the £1 was imposed on all articles sold by auction, by tradesmen, and the working classes. Their Plate and Jewels paid a duty of but 7*d.* in the £1, while tradesman's chatelains were taxed 1*s.* and why was that? Simply because jewels and plate were luxuries that belonged only to the rich, while chattels were the all of the poor man—(A laugh) and "No." Then, again on wool sold for the benefit of the landowner or his tenant, or the first purchasers, the duty was only 2*d.* in the £1; while all sales of goods seized for rent or tithes, and all sale or leases of lands or tenements, and all sales of wood, coppices, cattle, live or dead stock, and all manufactured produce of land, and of all produce of mines, when the sales were made, on the lands or at the mines, were wholly exempted, as well as all the produce of quarries or of implements used in quarries, mines, or farms; showing, that while every product of the hand of man had to bear this tax in almost a double degree, compared with the lands and tenements themselves, the produce of the land bore no part of this tax, which was thus shifted from the shoulders of the great and the rich and made to fall almost exclusively on the middle and working classes of society. In addition to this there were the thousand and one vexations of the excise inquisition which all together imposed a duty of 7½ per cent on all sale of the poor man's wares in Scotland and very nearly 10 per cent in England. The Hon. Member after calling upon the house to do its duty to the people by acceding to his resolution, concluding with moving—"That this House will, with as little delay as possible make such an alteration in the several acts imposing duties on stamps and on sales at auctions, as shall cause the Peers, Nobles, Baronets and other great land owners—(a laugh)—to pay, in proportion to the amount of their property (subject to those duties), as great an amount in these duties as is paid by the foundholders, annuitants, tradesmen, manufacturers, farmers, mechanics, and the rest of the industrious classes of the Kingdom, and as shall cause the rich to pay the said duties in the same proportion as the poor." That was the motion which it was his intention to propose to the House. He was not indifferent as to its success. He sincerely wished that it might be agreed to, for the sake of the House and for the country. If he held the opinion which some Hon. Gentleman attributed to him, he should be gratified by the rejection of this just proposition because he was convinced the result of it would be to make

probable country Arthur Young who had visited in 1787, and those were greatly in error. He considered that the revolution in that country did not commence long before it appeared to commence, for it began by the oppression of the people, stated the evils which existed in that country and put forward, as the foremost of those evils, the taxation. The rich were invariably favoured at the expense of the poor; on whom a double or treble amount of taxation was imposed. Goaded by their suffering, and by the perpetual comparison of their situation with that of their rich and aristocratic neighbours, the people at length determined no longer to endure such tyranny and oppression; and that cause alone produced all the evils which ensued. Now, he hoped, after what he had said, the House would be ready to do justice—a tardy justice—a justice he must say too long delayed—to the poor people of this country. He would not refer to old grievances. He for one, was willing they should be forgotten—for ever buried in oblivion. He wished no ripping up—he asked only for justice for the future. He had done his duty in bringing the matter before the House; and whatever their decision might be, he was willing that the country should decide between them.

Mr. S. RICE said that, in attempting to expose the absurdities and fallacies of the Hon. Member, he begged to assure the House that he would not take up its time at any length, were he not anxious to counteract the mischievous impression which the Hon. Member's most unfounded statements might produce out of doors. The Hon. Member was told when he brought forward the same statement on a former occasion, that Ministers had the stamp duties under their consideration, with a view to a prompt and efficient remedy; and yet, without, in common fairness, waiting for the result of this investigation, he now comes forward with a repetition of the same complaint. He also had to complain of the ingratitude of the Hon. Member to Mr. Dunn, the erudite author of the "Commercial and Law Remembrancer," to whose work, the Hon. Member was wholly indebted for information such as it was—and it never once mentioned that distinguished gentleman's name. The whole statement of Mr. Dunn was, however, a rubbish of fallacies, and the only object that could be attained by putting it forward as true, was the creating an impression, as false as it would be unjust, that the rich in Parliament not only exempted themselves from their fair share of the public burdens, but thrust them entirely on the poor—(Hear, hear, from Mr. Cobbett.) Was this true? Most certainly not. (Cheers.) The very first schedule of the table referred to by the Hon. Member proved that it was false, namely, the table of the exemptions from duties in favour of the poor—which table, the Hon. Member never once mentioned, for reasons which it was superfluous for him to specify. (Hear, and a laugh.) He would admit, and had before admitted, that the duties on stamps and auctions contained anomalies in their detail which required remedy; but why not, in fairness, wait for the remedy, and not endeavour to unjustly sour the minds of the poor against the rich—(Hear.) First, then, with respect to transfer and legacy duties. The Hon. Member was greatly in error if he supposed that only the rich were landholders, and affected only transfer of landed property; there were many transfers of small portions of land effected by the comparatively poor, but he admitted that that was but the exception—(Hear, from Mr. Cobbett.) Now the radical fallacy, or rather misrepresentation of the Hon. Member, was his basing all his assumptions on extreme duties instead of the mean or average of any scale of duties—(Hear.) The Hon. Member founded all his statements on extremes when, in fairness, they should be based on the mean or average duty. He (Mr. Rice) would base his counter statement on the average duties, confident that the result would be a total overthrow of the Hon. Member's misrepresentations. (Cheers, ironically echoed by Mr. Cobbett and his supporters.) To begin, then, with the probate duty, which the Hon. Member had represented as pressing with peculiar severity on the poor. What would the House think, and still more, what would the deluded public say, when he told them that all legacies under £20 were altogether free from duty, and that the Hon. Member was aware of the fact, and yet concealed it?—(Cheers.)—And it was by this suppression of truth, so unworthy of the Hon. Member, that the people of England were to be cheated into the misbelief that the rich taxed the poor man, while they carefully excepted themselves—(Cheers.)—Well, all sums under £20 were exempted from duty. The duty on sums from £20 to £100 (the mean £60), was 16s. 8d. This sum, the Hon. Member told them, was all that was imposed on higher sums, what was the fact? The duty on sums from £100 to 200. (The mean £150) was £1 4s., instead of 16s. 8d.; when the mean was £250 the duty was 2 per cent. instead of 16s. 8d. (Hear.) when the mean was £375, the duty was £2 2s. 8d.; when £700, the duty was £3 10s. 10d.; and for higher sums something under. (Hear from Mr. Cobbett.) He did not mean to deny that the scale was imperfect, and called for remedy; but the remedy was announced in their order-book; and it was but fairness to have awaited its production. Next with respect to conveyances. He was free to admit that the duties from £35 to £100 in the schedule were open to objection; but this again was only repeating his complaint. Why not give Ministers a fair trial, and see what they remedy for these defects and anomalies in the existing laws, efficient or otherwise? (Hear.) But even these defects by no means bore out the Hon. Member's exaggeration. The Member here read a statement, from which it appeared that the duty of sums under this head for £225 was 17s. 9d.; for £400 the duty was 15s., this he admitted was not as it ought to be for £625 it was 19s. to 2d. and for large sums £1 10s. The Hon. Gentleman next proceeded to show that Mr. Cobbett was grossly in error, in representing the lease duty as particularly oppressive to the poor. Why, any man as well acquainted with the circumstances of the poor as the Hon. Member must be, could not but know that the tenements of the poor taking them en masse, were held at will,* and not by lease (Cries of No, no, from Mr. Cobbett.) Facts would show that such was the case, for the returns on the table showed that not less than 38,705 poor tenements were entirely exempt from the case duty—(Hear.) He now came to the next resolution, which related to the mortgages. The Hon. Member for Oldham averred "That in the case of mortgages, bond, and securities of every description, if the amount of the mortgage, for instance, be £25, the amount of the stamp is £1, or 80s. per cent; but if the amount of the mortgage be £25,000, the amount of the stamp is £20, or 80s. per cent; that in this case the poor man pays forty times as much tax as the rich man; and that the stamp is no more if the amount of the mortgage be £100,000; so that in a sum like this the

poor man pays 200 times as much tax as the rich man and that in this case also the tax goes on increasing in weight as the taxed person becomes poor." Now he would ask the Hon. Member for Oldham, whether when he said that upon a mortgage of £25 the poor man paid 40 times as much tax as the rich man, he meant to say that mortgages for that amount were common among the poor? The most common mortgages upon the poor were those placed on their premises by the lower class of publicans, and in these cases no stamp was necessary for the brewer was generally the mortgagee, and the mortgage was effected by a deposit of title deed.

Mr. Cobbett I never of heard such a thing—(Hear, and a laugh.)

Mr. S. RICE.—The Hon. Member for Oldham had perhaps forgotten it in the immense attention, which he had paid to Mr. Dunn and his Remembrancer, had forgotten the habits and customs of his countrymen—(Hear, hear.) Even if larger sums were lent only for a time the mortgage was often secured by a like deposit of title-deeds. It was called an equitable mortgage, and was admitted to be an equitable mortgage in all our courts of law. No man would go to a lawyer to effect a mortgage for £25, for no honest lawyer would lend himself to raise it (Mr. Cobbett—"It is in the Act.") Yes, it was in the Act, but it was never in the deed—(A laugh)—and upon this nonentity or next to nonentity, the Hon. Member for Oldham must display all his sympathies for the poor. He might as well, because the writ de hæretico comburendo was still in the statute-book, display his sympathies about the heretics that might still be burned under that act, and his horror of the Reformation, against which he understood that the Hon. Member entertained very strong prejudices. (Hear, and a laugh.) Now, in this resolution the Hon. Member had referred only to one class of annuities, whereas there were two classes—those secured upon freehold estates, and those which rested upon other valid securities. On voluntary annuities he admitted that an inequality did exist. But was not the tax increased as the sum secured upon rent estates became greater? In that case the Hon. Member forgot that the conveyance duty existed; so that when the conveyance duty was added to the stamp duty, the case which the Hon. Member had made out, in favour of the poor man and against the rich, was completely altered. It was, therefore, clear that the Hon. Member came forward without knowing the facts connected with his resolution, or that knowing them, he thought it for the benefit of his case entirely to suppress them—(Hear, hear.) Then he came to the resolution respecting promissory notes and bills of exchange. Now, in this resolution regarding promissory notes, as in his resolution regarding receipts, one great fallacy pervaded the whole.—The Honourable Member appeared to conceive that, because a man was rich, his receipts and bills must be for large sums. That reminded him of a saying of Lord Liverpool, that because England was a rich country, therefore, it must have a rich standard—or, to use commoner phraseology, "Who drives fat oxen must himself be fat."—(Laughter.) The fact, however, was that the expenditure of the rich man depended more on the multiplication of small bills than upon the consolidation of large sums. A similar remark might be applied to the receipt stamps. The Hon. Member for Oldham had very pathetically put the hardship of a tradesman having to pay a receipt of ten pounds; but, did not the Hon. Member know that, in that case the tradesman was no loser, as he added it to the price of the article in which he dealt? He now came to the resolution regarding insurances for lives. The Hon. Gentleman then proceeded to show that the facts contained in this resolution were all incorrect. He said that this incorrectness must either arise from gross neglect on the part of the Hon. Member, or if it did not arise from neglect, it was unfair to endeavour to seduce the House into assenting to resolutions, which he informed them were founded upon facts, but which he contended were directly in the teeth of every fact and every document which he consulted. He now came to the Hon. Member's resolution regarding appraisements—(Hear.) That was a statement which, if allowed, to pass uncontradicted, was likely to have great weight with uneducated and unenlightened individuals; but the appraisement of an estate being made, what followed. He might derive great aid to his argument from referring to the lawyer's bill of costs, of which, thank God! he knew nothing personally—(A laugh)—but he would merely state, that after the appraisement came the conveyance duty, and that upon estates of £10,000 would amount to £9000.—(Here an Hon. Member said it was only £90, and some doubt was expressed by Hon. Members as to whether Mr. Rice was correct in his assertion.)—So that the rich man, whom the Hon. Member for Oldham described as fenced round with protection on every side, would have to pay, not only the duty on the appraisement, but also the duty on the conveyance; and thus the rich man, instead of paying 250 times less than the poor man, had actually to pay about eight times as much. Then came the Hon. Member's resolution about the premiums upon apprenticeships; and here the Hon. Member admitted that the amount of the stamp had been fixed upon an *ad valorem* duty. But even here *surgit armis aliquid*. Justice was done to the poor in this instance, because the nobility, clergy, and landed gentry had no interest in being unjust. But were there no items in this scale which applied in an analogous case to the rich? The Hon. Member loved to deal with the parsons—the poor parsons, the baronets, the barons, and the rest of the nobility. Now, had he taken the trouble to inform himself whether any thing analogous in this scale took place in any thing which related to them? Had he ever heard of such things as fees upon granting titles of honour? There, too, there was a graduated scale, £100 was the fee upon the creation of a baronet, £150 on the creation of a baron, £200 on the creation of a viscount, £250 on the creation of an earl, £300 on the creation of a marquis, and £350 on the creation of a duke. Was that fair? (Mr. Cobbett said, yes.)—He must next advert to the Hon. Member's resolution regarding mortgages and especially to that part of it which states "that there is a total exemption from this stamp tax for all bonds, contracts, mortgages, conveyances, deeds and instruments for making provision for building, repairing, or purchasing houses and other buildings, for the beneficial clergy on their benefices." Now the Hon. Member had been pleased to forget the heavy stamps which clergymen had to pay upon their presentation to livings, upon their obtaining possession of advowsons, and therefore, when he complained that the bonds into which they entered for repairs of the houses upon their benefices were exempt from stamp duties, without mentioning the other stamp duties to which they were liable, he was

leading all the uninformed who heard him to form a very erroneous inference respecting the exemptions which the poor persons enjoyed. He had now gone through the Honourable Member's resolutions upon the stamp duties. He would now proceed to the Honourable Member's resolutions respecting the auction duties, he was determined to follow the Honourable Member—or rather the Hon. Member's Friend and Patron, Mr. Dunn—through all the long walk which he had chalked out for him—(Hear and a laugh) on the auction duties the Honourable Member had been most particularly vehement. Now, what were the articles which came under the higher duties? "Furniture," here the rates were equal to rich and poor. "Fixtures," the same. "Pictures," have the poor or the rich the greater interest in the sale of pictures? "Books," are books of value purchased most by the rich, or poor? "Horses and carriages and all other goods and chattels whatever." These were articles which the poor might possess; but if they did possess them, how was their possession of them to be reconciled with the irredeemable distress in which the Honourable Member represented the poor to be involved in every part of the empire?—(Hear, hear.)—Then came the Hon. Member's complaint that a duty of only 7d. in the pound was imposed on the sale of the plate and jewels. "Here," said the Hon. Member, "are the nobility and gentry imposing a duty of only 7d. upon the sale of their plate and jewels, while they compel the poor to pay a duty of 1s. in the pound on the sale of their poor and wretched furniture." But was it possible that the Hon. Member could be ignorant that upon this point he was only stating half the truth? Did he not know that, previously to its being sold by auction, all plate had paid a stamp duty? Did he not know that gold plate paid a duty of 17s. an ounce, and that silver paid a duty of 1s. 6d. an ounce. The same observation applied to jewels. If the Hon. Member had applied at the Custom-house, he would have been informed that a duty of 20 per cent. was paid on the value of all jewels which were set, and of 10 per cent. upon all diamonds, which were unset, with the exception of the by, for which he never could account. The legislature had, therefore, taxed the luxuries of the rich in these instances, as fully, indeed more fully, than it had ever taxed the commodities of the poor. The Hon. Gentleman then proceeded to comment upon that part of the resolution, which stated that on wool sold for the benefit of the land owner or his tenant the duty his only 2d. in the pound. On this point he received so many interruptions from Mr. Cobbett, which were inaudible in the gallery, and gave replies to them which were incomprehensible from not knowing the remarks which elicited them. The effect of them, to judge from the cheering of the House, was most satisfactory. The Hon. Gentleman then thanked the House for the patience with which they had listened to him. His object was not to go through a minute and tedious detail of facts; he was only anxious to meet the Hon. Member for Oldham on the broad principle, that the policy of that House and of the aristocracy and gentry of England, had not been systematically to oppress and degrade the poor. The hon. Member, more ingeniously than ingeniously, had endeavoured to connect with his subject that unequal taxation which prevailed in France before the revolution. If there was one principle which could be contrasted with another, it was the principle which governed the taxation of France before the revolution, and that which now governed the taxation of England. The exemptions in France were in favour of rich. Instead of the aristocracy being opposed in spirit to the poor, the proudest Duke in the land was connected with the commonalty by his second son, whilst the poorest man was in his turn connected with the nobility by the reflection that if he had merits to ensure the distinctions, the highest honours of the peerage were not too high for his grasp. He contended that the liberties of England had never had better or truer champions than her gallant and high minded aristocracy; and the man who sought to deprive them of the respect which was their due, did not deal wisely by the institutions of his country, nor fairly by the individuals themselves. (Great cheering.)

The House then divided, when there appeared—
For the original motion..... 250
For Mr. Cobbett's resolution..... 26

Majority..... 224

The House then went into a Committee of supply.

TREATISE ON STEAM NAVIGATION.

By Robert Otway, Lieut. R. N., commanding his Majesty's Steam Vessel, *Echo*. 8vo. 1832.

The introduction of steam-vessels, and their general adoption, have followed each other so rapidly, that the superior despatch, regularity and security of this new mode of conveyance are decidedly acknowledged. In such a vast innovation upon the former system of navigation, it is plain that there is much for the officer to learn, and there are but few teachers,—because however the "stable engine" of a factory may admit of easy management, there is an additional knowledge required for the floating one. We are, therefore, glad that Lieutenant Otway has presented the Service with this unassuming but clever practical treatise,—because it is just the one which was much wanted,—and its form and price are such as to place it in every one's power. Called to the command of a steam-vessel, he dedicated his attention to the management of engines, boilers and furnaces; and steering clear of theoretical disquisition, he clearly proves the truth of his title-page, by describing the various portions of the engine—the nature and properties of steam—the manner of its introduction into the cylinders—its condensation, and final discharge; together with a general account of the operations of the engine-room.

In enumerating the qualities which an officer ought to possess who would really command a steam-vessel, Lieutenant Otway smiles at those gentlemen who think of making themselves mechanics for the purpose, by an apprenticeship at a forge. "I have been led to this remark," says he, "from having heard of officers who are actually at this moment wielding the sledge-hammer in certain factories of celebrity in the steam-engine department." These remarks are particularly valuable in our approaching state towards a steam navy; and we have no doubt whatever that England will rise triumphant,

as she always has done, in exemplifying the superiority of knowledge and tact to physical power.

It is true, that numbers of our officers are apprehensive that France will be vastly beforehand with us in the equipment of steam war-ships; but there seem to be no solid ground for the alarm. With our extensive means and industry we can always build a dozen engines for every one that the French can put out of hand,—for the materials, the manufacture, the invention, are substantially our own. We suppose the croskiers were as much deceived as was the French legislative body by the absurd rant of General Lamarque, as spouted before the Chamber of Deputies in 1829.* This gallant orator opened his speech by the advice that, in the event of a war with England, the first object should be to attack her commerce at all points: so thought Napoleon—a greater man than Lamarque. "If," said the General, "the attack directed against commerce should not be sufficient, the enemy must then be grappled with hand to hand and for this—steam will afford the means." *Ad mon General!* but how would you teach French sailors to grapple hand to hand, with those of England? "Naval tactics," he continued "would be rendered useless. It will set aside the advantage of a windward position,—of breaking the line,—or doubling a line,—and of all those complicated evolutions, which at Les Saintes, Aboukir, and Trafalgar, secured to our rivals triumphs which our mariners might otherwise have wrested from them." The countrymen of Lamarque were much indebted to him for thus broadly acknowledging their naval inferiority; and it must have puzzled the Deputies to recollect when or where the French seamen showed such inclination to our cutlasses, boarding-pikes, or other "hand-to-hand" tricks. The peroration of the unhappy orator must be given in order to show what had "got his steam up" for the occasion; "Ah! had not he, who from the heights of Boulogne so long threatened England, rejected the offers made to him for four years by the American Fulton, it would not have been as a captive that he would have visited the banks of the Thames. Other destinies would then have been reserved for the world; and had providence, which has willed that France should be free, brought back amongst us the ancient race of our kings, they would not have returned with a foreign chief, who, stripping our museums, violating capitulations, trampling on our national pride, proved to us, as Closterseven proved to our fathers, that the traditions of Punic faith had survived Carthage."

We must conclude our notice of Lieutenant Otway's essay, by submitting his novel and interesting facts upon the boilers of steam-vessels:—

"The greatest attention is imperatively necessary relative to the boilers. Whilst at sea they require to be blown off at regular intervals, in order to prevent any accumulation of scale or other sediment. That is to say, where there are three boilers, for instance, one of them must undergo this process within two hours; then another; and the third within the next hour. The engine-room is attended by six men, in addition to the engineers and their apprentices; four as stokers, and two as coal-trimmers: the four stokers relieve each other in succession at the end of every two hours, making two hours on and six hours off duty; the coal-trimmers are at watch and watch for four hours each. During the watch of each successive relief this operation is performed, and one of the fires raked out, and the bars cleared of clinkers, &c. The blowing off, which is a matter of the greatest moment, is thus done; before opening the cocks of the blow-pipes, care must be taken that the 'feed' (the water destined to supply the place of that blown off) is on the boiler*, and not only continued during the whole operation, but sufficiently long after the operation is completed to ensure the water in the boiler again attaining its proper height: that is, midway between the two gauge-cocks (but previous to blowing off the water should be run up as high as the upper gauge-cock). By taking this precaution, a sufficiency of cold water will be supplied to allay the ebullition caused whilst in a boiling state, and enable the engineer to ascertain the true gauge of water. The valves of the blow-pipes are opened at the same time, when the steam within the boiler, by its pressure on the surface of the water, forces it from thence into the blow-pipes and through the ship's bottom, carrying with it the sediment of the salt, &c. which the water, on being converted into steam, leaves behind, and is precipitated to the bottom. But, in the performance of this duty, the nicest care is requisite; and not more than six or eight inches depth of water should be suffered to escape as the fire-flues, which lead through the centre of the boiler, and surrounded with water, might be left bare, in which case they would inevitably sustain damage of the most serious nature, from such exposure to the joint effects of fire-heat acting on the underside, and the pressure of steam on the upper. Such an exposure, if but for a few moments, only, would effectually destroy the flues, and probably burst the boilers.

"The object, likewise, of 'blowing off' is to free the boilers from the sediment which is constantly forming, and which, lodging on the fire-flues and the bottom of the boilers, would if suffered to accumulate, not only corrode the iron, but likewise have a tendency to form itself into a succession of thick layers of a very calcareous substance, which would prevent the heat of the fire from penetrating with sufficient force to keep the steam up: an increased consumption of coal would then follow, with a view to effectuate the latter. Hence, a neglect of this highly important operation would lead to the progressive destruction

* This should never be altogether off, but a constant uniform supply, in proportion to the evaporation, kept up, by regulating the valves of the feed-pipe according to the state of the boiler.

of the boilers, and to a wasteful expenditure of fuel at the same time.

"Where steam of a very superior elastic force is used, this accumulation is not so likely to take place, as under the influence of low-pressure steam; because there is not the same probability of the steam going down so low, as by the admission of atmospheric air, to generate salt. But independent of the above attention to the practice of clearing the boilers whilst the vessel is performing her voyage, as soon after her arrival in port as the diminished heat of the boilers will admit of it, the sub-engineer should himself go into each of them in rotation, to examine most minutely, and see that every particle of this or any other sediment is carefully removed. The boilers cannot be kept too clean, whether inside or outside.

"That some of my brother-officers, in command of steam-vessels, may possibly have fallen under censure for a supposed neglect of this indispensable duty, I can readily imagine; but that such an imputation has not been merited, I feel assured; especially those who have had the conveyance of the mails to and from the Mediterranean; and on them particularly would such imputation be most likely to fall from the circumstance that in a greater or less degree, an accumulation of the destructive sediment is always found in the boilers on their return to England. But, from my own personal experience, I well know that steam-vessels so employed have too little time allowed them in the various ports they touch at, to admit of the proper examination of the engines, and the cleaning of the boilers; or for the discovery and repair of any hidden defect which may have arisen on the passage."

—United Service Journal for April.

LIEUT.-GENERAL C. BOYE, OF THE HON. E. I. C. SERVICE.

In the early part of his military career, which commenced in 1776, the late Lieutenant-General Boye, as Lieutenant on the Bombay establishment, was actively employed in three campaigns under General Goddard, Major Forbes, and Brigadier McCloud; he served at the siege of Mangalore, and the assault of Cannanore, and subsequently at that of the fortress of Darwar, in 1788, under Colonel Frederick. In 1798, having attained the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, he proceeded, in command, of the second battalion of his regiment, on field service, under Lieutenant-Colonel Little, to Jygar, to co-operate with the Marhattas against Tippoo Sultan. In April following, being appointed to command a detachment of two battalions of Sepoys, he proceeded to the Malabar coast, and joined Colonel Wiseman's brigade, and was actively engaged in taking possession of the lower country and forts on the sea-coast in Canara, from Neelsaram to Sedashugur; he was also employed against Doondia Waugh, and took possession of Hydergur Ghaut. In July following he was appointed to command the district of Cundapore: in January, 1800, he was removed, and appointed to raise the second battalion 6th N. I., at Surat, where he commanded the garrison. In 1802, he was transferred to the first battalion 3d N. I.; he proceeded to Bombay, and obtained the command of a field force, consisting of detachments of his Majesty's 84th and 88th regiments, a company of artillery, complete field train, first battalion 3d N. I., and first battalion 7th N. I. With this force he marched to Bassein, under the orders of Sir Barry Close, the resident with his highness the Peishwa Badjee Row. In April following, Colonel Murray, of his Majesty's 84th regiment, succeeded, as senior officer, to the command of the field detachments. Lieutenant-Colonel Boye proceeded with the forces to Poonah, where he commanded a brigade of Native Infantry, and joined the grand army under the Duke of Wellington, then Major-General Sir Arthur Wellesley.

At the conclusion of the war with Scindia, and other refractory Mahratta chieftains, Lieutenant-Colonel Boye was removed to the second battalion 4th N. I.; he proceeded to Goa, and commanded a brigade in the Portuguese district of Salsette. He was next removed to the first battalion 8th, which corps he joined at Ahmednuggur, and commanded that district: he afterwards proceeded to Poonah, and commanded that station, and next to Surat, where he commanded the garrison till promoted to the rank of Colonel in 1806, when he was appointed commandant of the 9th N. I., and the garrison of Tanna. In 1810 he returned to England on furlough. In 1811 he was promoted to Major-General, and in the following year, appointed to the Staff. In 1815, he obtained the command of the army at the presidency of Bombay, with the rank of Major-General. His limited time of four years on the Staff having expired in 1816, he was relieved by Major-General Laurence. In 1820, he returned to England, and in 1821, was promoted to Lieutenant-General.—United Service Journal, for April.

SKETCHES IN PARIS.

A DUCHESS OF THE EMPIRE.

One of the singularities of the present state of society here, is a Bookseller introducing me to a Duchess of the Empire, who lives in a convent. You mount a small staircase to the right. The two rooms that were furnished—the larger one is waiting a second edition of the memoirs perhaps—are pretty, but small.

About twenty persons were crowded in there; and the company was of a mosaic description, that corresponded with the combination which

"Dr. Ure, in his experiments for the discovery of the principles on which depend the formation of saline matter into crystalline masses, found that crystallization is effected by agitation solely, and not by the chemical, nor by the mechanical effect of the surrounding air; and certainly, the salts which are generated in the boilers would seem to corroborate this opinion."

had brought my introducer and my hostess into acquaintanceship.

Here was a general of Napoleon—there a member of the Institute—an antique beauty of the Directory, flirting with a young poet—and a dandy of the day (with a cravat almost as high and as stiff as I remember, in 1817, the sixth form rejoiced in at Harrow,) in earnest coquetterie with a *femme de lettres*, already more immortal than her works. My patron, who, in the circle before us, found himself the life, and soul, and bread, and soup, and fame, and glory, of at least a dozen who wrote works which they did not sign, or signed works which they did not write, held up his head and regulated his regards with all the magnanimity of a Mécenas; and was, what the Duke de Choiseul would have been in a similar circle seventy years ago.

La librairie est une des aristocraties de l'époque, and a bookseller, of talent and reputation, is, in point of power and consequence, far above a peer of France.

Madame Junot herself is a little woman, with a stature indecisive between the fat and the *en bon point*. Her face could never have been pretty or beautiful, but piquant, original, and voluptuous. Her eyes are dark and full of fire, and her bosom, though she must be between fifty and sixty, firm and smooth as satin. So that in spite of wrinkles, rouge, and a certain air of age about the mouth, one can understand, that two years ago M. Balzac was her lover, and that at the present moment, there are many with similar pretensions.

She has a *ton bref* and *tant soit peu brutal*, which has as much of the *vandœuvre* as the *marché* in it; but she is *spirituelle*, quick, and full of that kind of passion to speak, which puts a conversation at once *en train*.

THE COURTIER OF THE OLD REGIME.

I dined with M. de — and a gentleman, the Marquis de —, *homme à la mode* in the reign of Louis XVI., and who had seen Louis XV. sup with Mde. Dubarry. "What do you think of society now and society then, Marquis?" "For society to those who lived when I did, there is no society now. How can you expect there should be any, when here was my young friend who was going to cut my throat during dinner, because we don't happen to have the same political opinions? When I was a young man, Sir, the only thought and occupation of every one was, 'How shall we most amuse ourselves!' All the wit and all the talent which is now working itself out in a variety of channels was then concentrated in creating pleasure." "But the shop-keepers, they were a different race?" "O yes, they lived frugally and laid by their money, not with the idea of becoming gentlemen themselves, but with the hope and expectation that their great-grand-children might become so. People rose gradually;—the son of a shopkeeper purchased a charge; his son purchased one higher;—by degrees the family rose to the dignities of the magistrature and the parliament; and thus it arrived there prepared for a situation which had gradually approached."

"The common people had less desires, and were consequently more happy in their poverty, and more virtuous, being less exposed to temptation. This reminded me of the old lady from Bretagne whom I met the other day, 'And how are the peasantry in your country?' 'Oh! Monsieur,' said she, 'naïvement, ils sont les meilleurs gens du monde, car ils sont si ignorans; and for luxury and comfort and all that sort of thing, M. le Marquis? There was a greater kind of luxury,—more servants, more plate, more horses,—but the table-cloth was not so fine and so clean,—the rooms were not so well lighted,—all the little articles of luxury were not so much attended to. But when you talk of luxury you must remember that one class of persons, the most luxurious, is entirely extinct. The courtier exists no more than the mammoth. In my time she kept her carriage,—had her beautiful apartments or her *petite maison*,—gave her *soirées*, which were more difficult to get to than those of the queen. Everything about her breathed that volupté and that desire to which she devoted herself." "And how did she support her establishment?" "Oh she lived either with a gambler or a Grand Seigneur. I remember your grandfather, Jaques, saying, when he had lost all his fortune, 'au moins puis-je garder Julie et un cabriolet!' The Prince de Soubise had seven *figurantes* who had each their night. He allowed them lovers, but they were obliged to be of the noblesse. I remember the Count de Segur was very much in love with Mlle. Adèle. 'Ah, Prince,' said some one to him, 'you knew the pain every Tuesday that you gave to the poor Segur. Mais qu'at-il donc? Il aime Mlle. Adèle. Quels enfans! pourquoi ne me l'ont-ils pas dit? Elle ne viendra donc plus que jusque cela soit passé;—cela passera.'"

THE BOOKSELLERS.

I went to M. —, publisher and bookseller. Janin was there, the author of the "Ane Morte, Barnave," &c., a little dark man with a brilliant olive complexion, and an Italian countenance; vulgar, very gesticulatory, and handsome if he had not a quint. He lives with Mlle. Georges, and makes about 2000 napoleons a year. He is accused of having no principles,—of writing in every newspaper "Juste milieu,"—royalist and republican. Of course, he did nothing but talk of the want of principle in France; and I saw, as he continued to talk, that he did not exactly know what principle was. I observed this to my next neighbour. "You are right," said he, "Janin wants a conscience, poor fellow; it is not his fault, he was born without one, just as another man may be born without an arm or a leg."

It is this which shocks one in the present state of France,—not the predominating influence of talent, which indeed is the only influence; but that talent, without honour or principle, should possess this influence. It is, in fact, stripping

the empire of genius of all its advantages,—its poesy,—its beauty,—its chivalry. It is those advantages for which we wish and feel an interest in the triumph of intellect, because we believe that it will bring to the affairs of the world the greatness and the sublimity which can only be learnt in the closet,—that it will invest with poesy and grandeur the things which have hitherto been treated by vulgar minds as incompatible with such poesy and such grandeur.

But if the talent which succeeds is to be the talent of a Crispin or a Scapin,—if the cunning and intrigue of the *parvenu* is to take the place of the insolence and prerogatives of the ancient nobility;—if France is to be governed, and the world is to be governed, by men who, if they were not ministers and men of letters, would be swindlers at the Palais Royal; swindlers with loaded dice; packers and shufflers of cards,—we have retrograded instead of advanced, and we shall be obliged to go back to something worse than we started from in order to arrive at better things.

Mr. F.—'s apartments are up one pair of stairs only; but that pair is a dirty and ill-lighted one. His lodging, too, is small; three little rooms,—pretty furnished,—and with that kind of taste which we should call feminine in England, and which shows in its prevalence that the men live much more with the women here than with us. M. F.—, however, complains of his lodging as not fine enough. He is going to get another. "200 or 300 francs, more or less, for a *soirée*." "What is that to me?" said he,—and this is the genius of the present race of young men engaged in commerce and affairs.

You find the taste and the manners of the aristocracy have been divided in the same manner as the fortunes.

The antique nobility is not destroyed, it has only been cut up into pieces. Society is the Hotel de Montmorency divided out into apartments; and of one Grand Seigneur, time has made an infinity of little ones.

WRECK OF THE THETIS.

The Court of Admiralty, on Thursday, gave judgment in the well-known case of the *Thetis*. Sir C. Robinson said, it was a question of salvage, relating to the *Thetis* frigate, lost in 1830, off Rio de Janeiro, with 800,000 dollars on board. The parties who claimed as principal salvors were Admiral Baker, the commander on the station, and Capt. Dickenson, under whose immediate services the salvage was made. He recovered 588,621 dollars, and was then succeeded by Captain de Roos, of the *Algerine*, who received from Capt. Dickenson the necessary information, and recovered large quantities of treasure, so that not less than seven hundred and fifty thousand out of eight hundred and fifty thousand dollars had been recovered. The Court considered that Admiral Baker should be taken as the principal salvor. He had gone on his own responsibility in searching for the treasure, and Capt. Dickenson acted under him, which was shown by his calling for stores, and submitting all his plans to the Admiral for his sanction. The Court was therefore of opinion, that the distribution should be made pursuant to the provisions of the king's Proclamation of July, 1827, relative to distributing prizes. The *Lightning*, and the vessels acting with her, were to share in the same way in the sums recovered by them during the time they were occupied. The reward to the *Algerine* was to be in the same way on the amount she saved. The Lords of the Admiralty had a right to their claim for wages of men, stores, &c., as they were only trustees for the public, and the vessels having been used for eighteen months together. The Learned Judge then referred to the principles adhered to in the Court regarding salvage, and stated, that the sum he should allot for salvage services was £17,000, exclusive of the expenses, which would make about one-eighth of the computed amount of proceeds. He had given as much as he considered he could allow, but out of this sum, £1,000 was to be allotted in addition to these several shares, to persons who had performed particular duties, including certain hands from the *Warspite*, employed under Capt. Dickenson. Of this sum, £200 was to be paid to the widow of Mr. Moore, the engineer, who had lost his life while engaged in the service; and £300 to the officers and the crew of the *Adelaide*.—(Times.)—*Galvani's Messenger*, March 27.

MISCELLANEA.

In the Court of Chancery on Wednesday, after the disposal of two or three lunatic petitions, Mr. Pitt, the radical hatter of the Adelphi, who had been attending the Court several successive days, begged of his Lordship to appoint a time to hear him make a motion.—The Lord Chancellor: Mr. Pitt, there are two ways in which the King's subjects have a right to be heard in a court of justice, viz., in person or by counsel. If they choose the former they must take the consequences of delay, as counsel, have a right to precedence; and it is well that it should be so, for if all suitors were to appear in person very little business would be got through; perhaps not more than five or six causes in year. Mr. Pitt: It is the acknowledged right of the subject to appear in person in any of his Majesty's courts of justice. At least so said Jeremy Bentham, and he is an authority for whom your Lordship once entertained great respect.—The Lord Chancellor: So I do now, Mr. Pitt.—Mr. Pitt: Then I hope your Lordship will now appoint a time to hear my motion. I wish it to be heard before one that will be made to-morrow in the Vice-Chancellor's Court.—The Lord Chancellor: You must apply to the Vice-Chancellor. Mr. Pitt: That will be of no use, my lord. I know what the result of an application to an inferior court

would be; I remember once applying to the ever to be lamented Lord Tenterden, and—the Lord Chancellor again told Mr. Pitt that he must apply to the Vice-Chancellor.—Mr. Pitt: I claim my right to any court of justice; and if your Lordship refuses me being heard, I have the consolation of knowing that there is another and a higher country where there is no distinction of persons, and before which both your Lordship and I must some day appear.—The Lord Chancellor: I suppose you mean the House of Lords, Mr. Pitt?—Mr. Pitt: No, my Lord, I mean the Supreme Being, the creator of us all. Mr. Pitt continued to press his Lordship to hear the motion, and said that excellent judge, Mr. Baron Bayley, never refused to hear any application. He knew it was no use his applying to the Vice-Chancellor; in fact he would rather receive sentence of death from the lips of some of the judges than be imprisoned for a single hour by others.—The Lord Chancellor: I repeat that a subject has an undoubted right to be heard in person; but if he determines on that course, he must abide by the regular rules and forms of the Court.—Mr. Pitt: The Vice-Chancellor looks upon me with a jaundiced eye. It is no use applying to him.—The Lord Chancellor: You will receive justice from the Vice-Chancellor.—Mr. Pitt still continued to press his application, until stopped by the Lord Chancellor directing the court to other business.—(Spectator.)

The following rather curious circumstances took place at the sale of the Hafod Estate, in Cardiganshire, which was recently disposed of to the Duke of Newcastle.—This little territory and splendid mansion (the famed abode of Col. Johnes, M. P.) was announced for public auction last summer, under the authority of Chancery. The Master required of Mr. Robins to fix a sum previous to the auction which would justify the Court in accepting, and at the same time be satisfactory to the creditors. There was besides a residuary legate to be consulted, and (if possible) pleased. The task thus imposed was one of some difficulty. The result, however, was, that he recommended £60,000 to be the reserved price; it was put up, and although there were bidders both from Scotland and Wales, the competition did not progress beyond £58,000. In consequence, the estate was not sold. Since that period new aspirants appeared to make offers by private treaty—the sums varied from £50,000 to 55,000, the latter sum being the highest. A Mr. Owen (a country gentleman from Wales) became the fortunate possessor; but alas! Chancery is as uncertain as life. No sooner was the contract signed, and approved by the Master, than the Duke of Newcastle (who had been six months before in treaty) again opened the bidding by offering 55,000 guineas. This necessarily provoked the Welsh bidder, who added £1,000 to the Duke's offer. Again the biddings were opened, and the Welsh competitor at length offered £61,750, declaring he would go no further. The Duke offered £62,000, and thus became the possessor. Hafod was influential in returning Col. Johnes to Parliament for many years. It is a vast territory of 12,000 acres, but the land is wretchedly bad. The rental exceeds £1,300 a year.—(Post.)

M. LIONNE, the responsible editor of an obscure Paris paper, called the *Tribune*, has been found guilty by the French Chamber of Deputies, by a majority of 256 members of that Chamber against 50. By a majority of 204 against 103, he has been sentenced to an imprisonment of three years, and a fine of 10,000 francs—about 400l. The punishment is the heaviest which the law empowers the Chamber to inflict for a libellous offence. The editor lost no time, it is said, taking his departure for England; and a subscription has been opened at the office of the *National*, to pay the fine imposed upon him. The whole of this proceeding is singular. The editor's offence consisted in turning the Chamber "prostituted." The Chamber then assumes the offices of prosecutor, jury, and judge, and having found the accused guilty, sentenced him to the heaviest punishment the law allows. This blending of the executive with legislative functions, and the vindictive employment of these incongruous powers against the editor of an obscure journal, is not calculated to exalt the character of the French representative body; we are not surprised that the cry for Parliamentary Reform has been raised on the other side of the Channel. What would be thought in England of our House of commons acting as the French Chamber of Deputies has done? If the use of the terms "corrupt" or "prostituted" rendered the London journalists liable to fine and imprisonment, what of them would now be at large?

Apprehensions were entertained in Paris, that a rising of the Ultra Republican party, would take place on one of the first days of the week; and a large body of troops was assembled to put down the insurgents; but according to the last accounts, the city was tranquil. The Prefect of Police had taken measures to prevent a ball which was to have been given at the house of an advocate named Feneet, for the benefit of persons convicted of political offences.

GEOGRAPHICAL JOURNALS.—Last summer a geographical journey through the south-eastern parts of Siberia was undertaken by M. Feodorow at the command of the Emperor, who has appointed a sum of 22,000 rubles to defray the expenses. Still more important results are anticipated from the three years' journey about to be undertaken by the state-councillor P. S. Secretary to the Academy of Sciences. His route is from Petersburg to Peking, through eastern Siberia.

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